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V-C APPOINTMENT DEADLOCK

Governor reached out to Kerala CM, SC told

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Is AI being driven by technological progress, or investor enthusiasm?

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NEARBY

Five resolutions on NK adopted

BELAGAVI
In a bid to bring pressure on the Centre to fund long-pending projects in North Karnataka region, the Congress government moved five resolutions, which were adopted by the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.
» PAGE 12

Assembly nod for hate speech Bill

BELAGAVI
The Legislative Assembly, on December 18, passed the Bill on preventing hate speech and hate crimes, while members of the Opposition were on a protest over a Minister's remark on members from coastal Karnataka. » PAGE 12

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Consider 'ground realities' in various States, SC tells EC

SC asks the poll body to take a 'sympathetic view' to petitions seeking to extend enumeration phase of SIR; it requests EC to take 'appropriate decision' on the petitions from U.P. and Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission of India (EC) to take a "sympathetic view" of representations to extend the enumeration phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, taking into consideration the "ground realities" in various States.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant passed the order, requesting the EC to take an "appropriate decision" after petitioners from Uttar Pradesh and Kerala said the enumeration phase was still too hasty for comfort.

The enumeration schedule for Kerala had been revised earlier, with the deadline pushed to December 18 and the draft voter list to be published on December 23. The revised deadline for Uttar Pradesh was extended to December 26.

> The probability of the Assembly elections (in Uttar Pradesh) is in April or May of 2027. It is a large State as far as population is concerned, and there is clearly no urgency to hold this exercise now
>
> **SIDDHARTH DAVE**
> Advocate for petitioners

Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for petitioners including Barabanki MP Tanuj Punia, challenging the SIR of electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh, asked what was the hurry to conduct the exercise when the Assembly election was only scheduled to be held in 2027.

"The probability of the Assembly elections is in April or May of 2027. It is a large State as far as population was concerned, and there is clearly no urgency to hold this exercise now," Mr. Dave submitted.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate C.K. Sasi, appearing for Kerala, joined in to urge the top court to order an extension of the enumeration phase deadline.

'Keeping a watch'

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, intervened to urge the court to not pass any judicial orders extending the deadline.

"The Election Commission is keeping a watch. It is evident with the extensions given in the past. Your Lordships may not extend, leave it to the Election Commission," Mr. Dwivedi pressed.

A Bench of Chief Justice Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi further listed the hearing on the constitutionality of the SIR on January 6, 2026, after the winter break.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 16

India signs trade pact with Oman for duty-free exports

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India and Oman signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on Thursday, under which Oman will provide India duty-free access to 98.08% of its tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports to Oman.

India, on the other hand, has offered liberalised tariffs on 77.79% of its total tariff lines, covering 94.81% of what India imports from Oman. Apart from tariff removal on merchandise exports, the deal also includes several concessions that are expected to benefit India's service sector, including in terms of mobility of workers.

The deal was signed in Muscat by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tarik oversee the signing of the FTA in Muscat on Thursday. PTI

India exported $4.06 billion worth of merchandise to Oman in 2024-25, which made up 0.93% of India's total exports that financial year. It imported $6.5 billion worth of goods from Oman, comprising 0.91% of India's total imports.

"The CEPA will infuse the India-Oman partnership in the 21st Century with renewed faith and energy," Mr. Modi said earlier in the day while speaking at the India-Oman Business Forum. "This is a blueprint for our future. It will give our trade new vigour and new trust for investments and will open the doors of new opportunities in every sector."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 16

Super Kings' seismic shift — Dad's Army to T20 babies

The shedding of conservatism and embarking on a bold new tomorrow represents a dramatic change in the make-up of the team's DNA; how the revamped outfit performs in the 2026 edition will be followed with greater interest than normal; the franchise revisited its approach in light of the miserable campaign last year

R. Kaushik

When Chennai Super Kings clinched the last of their five Indian Premier League titles in May 2023, the driving forces of their successful campaign were all on the wrong side of 30. Among those who featured in the title clash against Gujarat Titans were Devon Conway (31 at the time), Ajinkya Rahane (34), Ambati Rayudu (37), Ravindra Jadeja (34) and Moeen Ali (35), playing under the able stewardship of Mahendra Singh Dhoni (41).

Before the tournament, CSK were dismissed as 'Dad's Army,' much like in 2021 when too, they cocked a snook at the critics and went all the way. Dad's Army found a way to overcome every obstacle in its path in 2023; their victory in a truncated final that was played out on the reserve day came on the back of a six and a four by Jadeja off the last two balls of the tournament, a fitting finale to a title clash that had until then been played in the shadow of unseasonal precipitation in Ahmedabad.

Over the years, CSK have smashed every accepted tenet of 20-over cricket, once naively and erroneously installed as a 'young player's format.' While the rest of the cricketing world invested heavily in young blood, the Chennai-based franchised drew from the traditional flavour of the city, relying heavily on experience and proven pedigree and distancing itself from the temptation of succumbing to the charms of the youth.

For all their stubbornness and steadfast adherence to the 'experience first' philosophy, CSK had the results to support their style. Defying clamour and sticking to their methodology had taken them all the way in 2021, as it did again two years later. In a world constantly in the quest for instant gratification and where the players were getting young and younger - remember, Vaibhav Suryavanshi went for ₹1.1 crore to Rajasthan Royals at the auctions before IPL 2025, when he was only 13 years of age - CSK placed implicit faith in its 'Dad's Army.'

Huge shift

It was in the natural order of things therefore that they would stick with that mantra going forward. But what had worked wonders for them until them unravelled spectacularly in 2025. Ageing legs, dimmed reflexes and tired bodies were no longer able to summon the adrenaline that could carry them for eight weeks while going toe-to-toe consistently with much younger and fresher minds and bodies. Dad's Army was shown up for what it was. With their season all but done and only token pride to play for, the multiple-times winners made a strong break from the past, turning their attention to the one commodity they had obdurately chosen to overlook - youth.

And so in their last game of IPL 2025, long after the horse had bolted, CSK's XI contained Ayush Mhatre, the 17-year-old opener, and Dewald Brevis, the effervescent 21-year-old from Johannesburg. This was right at the end of a season where they had blooded numerous other young resources, among the 19-year-old Shaik Rasheed and Urvil Patel, who made their debuts.

It indicated a tectonic shift in mindset and strategy, brought about by outcomes that needed immediate attention. From exciting and exuberant, CSK had devolved into ponderous and non-reactive. Their campaign was in shambles, a write-off from the halfway stage of the league phase, and while there remained the small matter of pride, the greater requirement was to focus on the future and to identify the personnel that the support staff were convinced would serve the franchise for years to come.

Young blood

Any suspicions that what happened in the second half of the last campaign was a mere knee-jerk reaction to recent events were emphatically laid to rest on Tuesday (December 16) at the mini-action in Abu Dhabi. CSK broke the proverbial bank to secure the services of a duo of young men with no more than a handful of senior representative appearances behind them. A week ago, it would have been unimaginable that Chennai, of all teams, would shell out ₹14.2 crore to procure the services of Prashant Veer, a 20-year-old from Amethi in Uttar Pradesh with only nine 20-over games under his belt.

Veer thus became the most expensive uncapped India player in the entire history of the tournament. Unassuming and unfussed, Veer etched his name in the record books. CSK needed a *Ravindra Jadeja-like* player at the auction after trading out the experienced left-handed all-rounder to Rajasthan Royals. Jadeja is practically irreplaceable even in the T20 format where his best days are clearly behind him, but CSK had to look long and hard, hoping to unearth a special talent for the future, if not necessarily for the immediate now.

Veer is an accomplished basher of the cricket ball who, in last season's Uttar Pradesh T20 league, amassed 320 muscular runs and backed it up with eight wickets in 10 matches. In his fledgling senior representative career, 12 wickets at an economy of 6.45 has been complemented by a terrific strike-rate of 167.16. Not too long back, CSK would have looked at these numbers, maybe even have done a 'double take' but nothing more than that. After all, he didn't fit their 'minimum age requirement' nor did he have a pedigreed record in state/franchise cricket. In so many ways, Veer is the very antithesis of the quintessential CSK acquiree. Not unlike Kartik Sharma, the 19-year-old who isn't an entirely unfamiliar face when it comes to the Chennai franchise. Last season, as an 18-year-old, he trialled with CSK and caught the eye of the management group though at that stage, there was no way to accommodate him in their larger squad. CSK bided their time, then went all out to pick up Kartik, just as they had done minutes previously with Veer.

Kartik Sharma

CSK came into the auction in Abu Dhabi with a purse of ₹43.40 crore, the second most of all the franchises, behind Kolkata Knight Riders (₹64.30 crore), so they had plenty to play with. But even so, no one would have imagined them doling out ₹28.40 crore on just two players, both of them uncapped Indians with a combined age of 39. Veer and Kartik thus became the most expensive uncapped indian buys ever in IPL history. Kartik, like Veer, has just a few matches under his belt but CSK had had first-hand knowledge of what he brought to the table.

Wicketkeeper-batter Kartik is one for the long-term, given that Dhoni isn't going to be around forever - like ever, 'Is this his last season?' debate has already started - and while CSK have brought Sanju Samson in from Rajasthan Royals after letting Jadeja and Sam Curran go in exchange, Kartik is the one they hope will be a bank going forward. In his brief run at the domestic level, the lad has smacked a devastating 28 sixes in 12 matches and is an acknowledged taker-down of quality spin, excellent virtues to possess if one is batting in the second half of the innings.

Stephen Fleming, the head coach who has been exclusively with CSK since the start of the 2008 season except for the two seasons when the franchise was suspended from the IPL, conceded that his side had been forced to revisit its approach in light of the miserable start to its campaign last year, when most of the senior pros came a cropper. "As the game has evolved, we might have been a little bit slow to evolve with it," the former New Zealand skipper said after the auction. "Only halfway through the (2025) tournament, we had a big shift and you saw with the players we got in as reserves, there was a shift in what we needed to do.

"Sometimes, you can hang on to theories and philosophies because of past success but we identified that we needed to shift and partly the work that we did last season halfway through has enabled us to continue that work done. My view used to be that experience was going to win, but now you have this fearless athlete that's been brought up on T20 cricket and has a skillset that's mouthwatering, and they just have no fear about what environment they need to exhibit these skills."

The shedding of conservatism and embarking on a bold new tomorrow is a seismic shift in the make-up of CSK's DNA, meaning that how they go in IPL 2026 will be followed with greater interest than normal. Dhoni is at one end of the age and experience spectrum; Veer and Kartik together are five years younger than him and it is clear from what they have said in the last few days that he is more than just a hero to them. They couldn't have hoped for a better mentor, a more level-headed and qualified life coach than the Jharkhandi who is more than just a player to the denizens of Chennai, and under whom the franchise has gone from strength to strength.

Chennai historically have shown great resilience in bouncing back from the disappointment of one season to make a bold statement in the next, as they showed in 2021 and 2023. Now, having brought up the foot of the table for the first time in their proud and glorious history, they will target immediate payback. Armed with a whole new mentality and with resources that they wouldn't have touched with a bargepole even a couple of years back, who is to say that they won't rewrite the record books and become the first side in the history of the tournament to be crowned six-time champions?

Prashant Veer

THE GIST

- Over the years, CSK smashed every accepted tenet of 20-over cricket, once naively and erroneously installed as a 'young player's format'
- In the 2025 edition, the multiple-times winners made a strong break from the past, turning the attention to the one commodity they had obdurately chosen to overlook – youth
- Chennai historically has shown great resilience in bouncing back from the disappointment of one season to make a bold statement in the next, as they showed in 2021 and 2023

Psychological distress linked to problematic pornography use: Study

Pornography consumption has risen over the past few decades, driven by what researchers describe as 'Triple A' factors

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Problematic pornography use (PPU) among Indian adults is closely associated with psychological distress, with anxiety and stress emerging as key predictors, according to a recent study by researchers from NIMHANS, Bengaluru.

The findings add to growing evidence that while pornography consumption is widespread, a subset of users develop compulsive patterns that adversely affect their mental health and daily functioning.

The study, published last month in *Geopsychiatry*, an open-access journal, is based on an online survey of 112 adults aged between 18 and 46, who reported difficulties related to their pornography use. The findings show significant positive correlations between PPU and symptoms of anxiety, depression, stress, and pornography cravings, while early exposure to pornography was linked to a higher likelihood of problematic use later in life.

Triple 'A' factors

Pornography consumption has risen steadily over the past few decades, driven largely by what researchers describe as the "Triple A" factors - accessibility, affordability and anonymity - along with the increasing normalisation of explicit content through digital platforms and social media, said Manoj Kumar Sharma, professor of clinical psychology and director of the Service for Healthy Use of Technology (SHUT) Clinic at NIMHANS.

Dr. Sharma, who is the corresponding author of the study, told *The Hindu* that most individuals consume pornography without significant harm while a subset develop compulsive patterns that persist despite psychological, social or moral consequences.

"Empirical research on problematic pornography use in India remains limited despite its growing prevalence. Our study attempts to address this gap by examining the psychological correlates and predictors of PPU in the Indian context," he said.

What the study found

Participants were assessed using standardised tools measuring depression, anxiety and stress, pornography cravings, motives for use, and addiction-related symptoms such as tolerance, withdrawal and relapse.

M. Rajashekar, PhD scholar at the department of clinical psychology at NIMHANS, and a member of the research team, said the findings suggested that individuals experiencing psychological distress may be more likely to use pornography as a maladaptive coping strategy, particularly for stress reduction.

"Anxiety and stress-related motives emerged as significant predictors of problematic use, indicating a bidirectional relationship - distress may fuel excessive consumption, which in turn can intensify feelings of guilt, shame and emotional difficulties," he said. The researchers also found that early exposure to pornography could increase vulnerability to problematic patterns by reinforcing cravings and escalating consumption over time. This could lead some users to seek more intense or extreme content, further strengthening compulsive behaviour.

Challenges in India

Highlighting the challenges of researching pornography use in India, the study pointed to cultural stigma, moral taboos and social desirability biases that limit open discussion and help-seeking. As a result, much of the existing understanding and treatment approaches are drawn from Western literature, which may not fully account for India's socio-cultural context.

The authors argued that the findings underscore the need for culturally sensitive and psychologically informed interventions that address underlying distress rather than focusing solely on controlling behaviour.

Tiger captured near Gundlupet easing villagers' fears

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The tiger which was caught by the Forest Department at a village close to the Gundlupet buffer zone area of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in the early hours of Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A four-year-old tiger was captured by a Forest Department team in the early hours of Thursday from a barren land at Bommalapura village, near the Bandipur Tiger Reserve. The big cat is healthy and has been safely shifted to Bandipur, where it is being closely monitored by a team of veterinarians.

The capture has brought immense relief to villagers and farmers living around the Gundlupet buffer zone of the tiger reserve, who had been living in fear following sightings of the tiger and incidents of livestock attacks.

Tiger sighting was reported in Bommalapura, K.K. Hundi, Shivapura, Kodasoge, Hullepura, Devapura and surrounding villages, triggering panic among the local population.

Acting on the complaints, the Forest Department installed camera traps in the area, through which the animal was identified as Bandipur-26 (GPS). After several attempts over the past few days, forest officials captured the tiger on Thursday. The operation was led by Deputy Conservator of Forests S. Prabhakaran under the guidance of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Bengaluru, and the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Bengaluru. The Gundlupet taluk administration and the Police Department extended support during the operation.

According to a note issued by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), Gundlupet, the tiger was shifted safely to Bandipur under veterinary supervision, and the authorities are awaiting further instructions regarding its future management.

Meanwhile, villagers have been advised to clear overgrown shrubs and weeds in their uncultivated fields, as such vegetation could serve as hiding places for wild animals.

The Forest Department has written to the authorities concerned, urging them to act on its request to remove thick bushes and shrubs in vulnerable areas.

Seven booked for extortion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police have arrested seven persons for allegedly extorting ₹2 lakh from a businessman and his relative in Byadarahalli in northwest Bengaluru on December 15. The prime accused has been identified as Manjunath L.S., alias Magadi Manju, and his associate Chandan Gowda.

Investigators suspect that Manju has a criminal past and are verifying his involvement in other cases. Other accused have been identified as Rajesh P., Devraju alias Devu, B. Chandru, Santosh N., and Rajashekar C.S. All have been remanded in judicial custody. The victim, a gutka product dealer, told the police that the incident occurred around 11.30 p.m. on December 15 while he was returning home with his relative. According to the police, Manju, Gowda, and their accomplices intercepted the businessman's car near BEL Layout and allegedly hurled a large stone at the windshield. The accused then pulled the businessman and his relative out of the car, assaulted them with rods, forced them into another car, and took them to a petrol pump on Magadi Main Road.

According to the police FIR, Manju snatched the businessman's mobile phone, contacted the victim's family, and demanded a ransom of ₹10 lakh. Eventually, the accused took ₹2 lakh from the victims and dropped them near BEL Layout. The accused allegedly threatened the victims and warned them against reporting the incident. Despite this, the businessman lodged a complaint the following day. Based on technical evidence, the police arrested the accused.

The accused have been booked under relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections.

Musical tribute

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sapthak Bangalore will host Janma Shatabdhi- Nada Namana, a musical tribute marking the birth centenary of Dilruba maestro late D.P. Burde at Shri Akhila Havyaka Mahasabha, 11th Cross, 8th Main, Malleswaram , on December 21. The event will begin at 5.30 p.m.

34th edition of Esprit held at Christ

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 34th edition of Esprit, an annual international undergraduate management fest of School of Business & Management (BBA), Christ (Deemed to be University), was successfully held recently.

The event was held in collaboration with Christ University School of Business & Management Association (CUSBMA) - BBA.

This edition witnessed participation from over 35 teams representing more than 25 universities across the globe.

The competitive rounds of Esprit tested participants across domains including corporate strategy, wealth management, marketing, human resources, public relations, entrepreneurship development, business quiz, and management. Each event blended analytical rigour with creativity, encouraging participants to think strategically and perform under pressure.

Panel discussion

A key highlight of this edition was the Business Makers Conclave, an exclusive panel discussion featuring Rajeev Ved, Parag Pande, Nagaraja Prakasan, and Nishant Poddar. Leading corporate leader Kamal Bali, chief guest of the fest, shared his leadership philosophy through his well-received '7UP' framework.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY WORK

Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on Behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/SR.DMM/T.NO. 96255648, Date: 17.12.2025. Description**: Manufacture & Supply of 6400 mm over riding Derailing Switches 1 in 8.5, T/Out for BG (1673 mm) 60kg on PSC Sleepers to RDSO Drg. No. T-6068 Alt.4 with latest alteration and conforming to specification no. IRS: T-10-2025 with latest corrigendum issued up to the actual date of closing tender. **Quantity**: 36 Set. **Earnest Money (INR)**: Rs.218380/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in 12.01.2026 after 11:30** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr.DMM / SUR
Central Railway, Solapur

DE/Sur-73

खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
DIGITAL ULTRASONIC SINGLE WORK

Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on Behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/SR.DMM/T.NO. 96255333A, Date: 17.12.2025. Description**: DIGITAL ULTRASONIC SINGLE RAIL TESTER with 9 probes colored signals and real A Scan pulse echo with continuous recording of B Scan storage of each probe along with data setups including accessories list as per Annexure-1 (attached) with RDSO specification No- M&C/NDT/128/2007 (B-Scan) Rev-IV Aug-2021. **Quantity**: 4 Nos. **Earnest Money (INR)**: Rs.109320/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in 08.01.2026 after 11:30** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

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Central Railway, Solapur.

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खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, BENGALURU
BSNL Builiding 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

TRC No. 1492/2018
Form No. 14
(See Regulation 33(2))

Karnataka Bank Limited, Sarakki layout Branch, No. 219, Gajanana Towers, 9th Cross, KSRTC Layout, J. P. Nagar II Phase, Bangalore - 560 078. **... Certificate Holder Bank**
Versus
M/s. Sree Lakshmi Industries **....Certificate Debtor/Defendatns**

DEMAND NOTICE

To
1. M/s. Sree Lakshmi Industries, Represented by its Proprietor, Sri Pradeep B. Utpath, S/o. A. R. Bhadrinath, No. 111/3, Pantharapalya, Mysore Road, Nayandanahalli, Bangalore - 560 039.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No.2139/2014** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru on dtd.8/27/2016 and an amount of **Rs.17,30,606.30/-** (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Thirty Thousand Six Hundred and Six And Paise Thirty Only) is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **24.01.2020**

Sd/- Recovery Officer- I
Debts Recovery Tribunal -2, Bengaluru

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:

"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRAKASH KC r/o 132/2, Behind CKR complex, Channasandra, Bengaluru 560067 have changed my minor son's name from Chitraksh PS to Chitraksh P S for all purposes vide affidavit dated 17/12/2025 before notary H M Govind Raju

I, S.Arokia Dass S/o Savarimuthu, R/o No 15, Premier Avenue 1st Floor, Blessing Garden Road, 16thCross, Opp Sarene Garden Apartment, Byrathi, Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name from S.Arogya Das to S.Arokia Dass vide affidavit dt: 02.04.2025 sworn before Notary M.Rajendra, B'lore

I, PMD RESHMA, spouse of PANYAM MD MASTAN VALI resident of SMQ.882/3, Subroto Enclave, Jalahalli (West) have changed my Name from PMD RESHMA to PANYAM M D RESHMA vide Affidavit dated 17 Dec 25 before Notary, I Kanikha Raja Bangalore Reg No–10170.

I, DIPTI SAH W/o. JWO SANTOSH KUMAR R/o. SMQ HQ TC, Aswath Nagar, Bangalore-560006, Karnataka have changed my name to DIPTI RANI. I have sworn before Notary on 06 Dec 25.

I, Kumar.j R/o 1-938, Periya Ponneri Village, Ponneri Post, Tirupattur (dist, Taluk), Tamil Nadu,635851 have changed my minor daughter's name from K.dhivya to Dhivya. K.

I, M.Sivasakthi W/O, Kumar. J R/o 1-938, Periya Ponneri Village, Ponneri Post, Tirupattur (dist, Taluk), Tamil Nadu,635851 have changed my name to Sivasakthi.M, D.O.B from 10-4-1987 to 10-4-1989

I, K.priyanka D/O, Kumar.j R/o 1-938, Periya Ponneri Village, Ponneri Post, Tirupattur (dist, Taluk), Tamil Nadu, 635851 have changed my name to Priyanka.k.

I, HARIPRIYA DHARMAN (Passport) Residing at No. 9, Sri Sai Residential Layout, E-city phase 2, Bengaluru shall henceforth be known as HARI PRIYA DHARUMAN (Aadhar card)

RENTAL

TOLET GROUND floor 400 sq.ft , 1st floor 1200 sq.ft , Rcc bldg 10 HP power available Muddanapalya Main Road 7th Block Vishveshwaraiah Extn Layout Behind Kaasi Medicals Parallel to Mn Road. 7975755891 / 9449772240

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF II ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI
OS No. 404/2021
Between : Smt. Nagamma & 2 others
...Petitioner
And : Sri. M.K. Anitha & Sri. M K Ganesh
...Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT No. 1 & 2
D1 : Anitha W/o Ramachandra, No.92, 2nd Cross, Ambedkar nagara, Kattigenahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064.
D2 : M K Ganesh S/o Munikatappa, No. 6, H-Colony, 1st Stage, 1st Cross, Indiranagara, Bangalore-560 038.
Whereas, the Plaintiffs instituted the above suit against the Defendant No. 1 & 2 for Partition of 1/3rd share in the suit schedule property and deliver separate possession along with metes and bounds of the suit schedule property. You are hereby summoned to appear in the court in person or by an Advocate **on the 3rd day of February 2026 at 11.00 AM**, otherwise the case will be heard and determined in your absence as an ex-parte.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day aforementioned, the matter will be heard and determined in your absence.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of residential property bearing Site No.79, Kanesumari No. 193/2/79, Assessment No. 193/2 measuring East to West 30 ft., North to South 40 ft., total extent of 1200 sq.ft, situated at Ambedkar Nagara, Kattigenahalli Village, Jala Hobali, Yalahanka Taluk, Bangalore-64. Bounded on:- **East By :** Vacant Land, **West By :** Road, **North By** : Site No. 78, **South By** : Site No.80.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court this 17th day December 2025.
By Order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, ಮುಖ್ಯ ಲಿಪಿಕಕಾರರು,
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli.
Advocate for Plaintiffs No.1 to 3
D.K. GANGARAJU & RADHA N
Advocates & Consultants
No.240, 2nd Cross, Bagaluru Main Rd, Sri Sai Layout, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064. Ph : 7975852463

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Addendum: In continuation to advertisement dated 9.12.2025, applications are invited on the prescribed online application form to fill up the following additional posts on contract basis for a period of 'four years' which can be extended based on performance:

S. No.	Name of Post	Number of Posts
1.	Professor (Epidemiology/ Public Health Specialist)	1-UR
2.	Additional Professor (Surgical Hepatology)	1-UR
3.	Additional Professor (Virology)	1-OH#
4.	Associate Professor (Anaesthesia)	1-UR
5.	Associate Professor (Critical or Intensive Care Medicine)	1-UR
6.	Assistant Professor (Pathology)	1-UR
7.	Resident Medical Officer	2-UR, 1-OBC, 1-SC
8.	Senior Technical Executive (Radiotherapy)	1-UR
9.	Floor Coordinator	3-UR, 1-OBC, 1-SC
10.	Executive (Security & Fire)	2-UR

Orthopaedically Handicapped

Corrigendum – The post of Head Nursing Care Services published in advertisement dated 09.12.2025 is withdrawn.

The last date of receipt of applications is **11th January, 2026. For further details and other posts of faculty and non-faculty, please visit** http://www.ilbs.in.

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Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC No. 100/2025 in O.A. No. 79/2023
KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK
V/S. SRI VENKATESHAPPA & OTHERS

To **(CH) Karnataka Gramin Bank,** Srinivasapura Branch, Kolar District - 563 135, Karnataka. **... Certificate Holder**
Versus
(CD-1): Sri Venkateshappa, S/o. Sri Muniswamy, R/at Chiruvanahalli Village, Nambinalli Post, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka.
(CD 2): Sri. T. Narayana Swamy, S/o. Thamma Reddy, R/at: Mogilahalli Village, Chaldiganhalli Post, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka
(CD 3): Sri. M. V. Subba Reddy, S/o. Venkateshappa, R/at Chiruvanahalli Village, Nambinalli Post, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka.
(CD 4): Sri. M. V. Babu S/o. Venkateshappa, R/at Chiruvanahalli Village, Nambinalli Post, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka.
....Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT-2)** in **OA/79/2023** an amount of **Rs.43,53,729.10/-** (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Nine and Paise Ten Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 8% simple interest yearly w.e.f. 10.11.2022 till realization and cost of **Rs.46000/-** (Rupees Forty Six Thousand Only) has become due against you jointly and severally and personally from hte Certificate Debtors. **2)** You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.**3)** You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4)** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings.**5)** In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay:(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings.(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **03.04.2025**

Sd/- Recover Officer ,
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore (DRT-2)

NB: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961 read with RDDBFI Act 1993 which is reproduced below:

"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representatives or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, not shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other moneys contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

Why intimate partner violence is an under-recognised public health crisis

For women in South Asia, intimate partner violence is a greater risk factor for poor health than obesity, smoking, or alcohol use — placing violence among the leading drivers of disability and chronic illness; this situation demands a paradigm shift to view domestic violence as a risk factor that impacts health

Christianez Ratna Kiruba

When Meera (*name changed on request*) first sought medical help, she was 34, a mother of two, and visibly exhausted. She went to a doctor at a private clinic, complaining of tightness in her chest, a rapidly-beating heart, and episodes of intense panic that left her gasping for air. "The doctor ran some tests. Everything came back normal," Meera recalled. "She just gave me multivitamin tablets and told me it would get better."

It did not.

Over the next three years, Meera shuttled between multiple departments at a government hospital in Assam – general medicine, cardiology, psychiatry. Doctors continued to investigate. Her ECGs were normal. Blood tests showed mild anaemia. She was prescribed iron supplements, antacids for gastric discomfort, and eventually, sleeping pills to manage what was described as stress. It was only after a particularly severe episode, when Meera collapsed following an intense panic attack that someone noticed what was really happening. A junior doctor noticed her flinch when her husband answered questions on her behalf and asked to speak to her alone. What emerged was a long history of physical violence, marital rape, economic control, and threats.

Meera was not suffering from an inexplicable collection of symptoms. She was living with untreated post-traumatic stress disorder, and it had taken years for the health system to recognise it.

The burden of violence

Meera's trajectory through India's health system mirrors what a recent Lancet analysis now describes as a global, yet under-recognised, public health failure. Drawing on data from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023, the paper identifies intimate partner violence as a significant and measurable contributor to a wide range of health outcomes, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, suicide, chronic pain, cardiovascular disease, gastrointestinal disorders, substance use, sexually transmitted infections, and adverse reproductive outcomes.

For women of reproductive age in South Asia, the analysis finds that intimate partner violence is a greater risk factor for poor health than high fasting plasma glucose, obesity, smoking, or alcohol use – placing violence among the leading drivers of disability and chronic illness.

This enables a crucial paradigm shift. Domestic violence is no longer a social issue but a risk factor that impacts health.

Intimate partner violence is an insidious exposure that accumulates over years, shaping mental illness, non-communicable disease, and long-term disability rather than presenting as a single, identifiable event.

Call to action: A silent protest calling for an end to violence against women in Mumbai. Intimate partner violence has been identified as a significant and measurable contributor to a wide range of health issues. EMMANUAL YOGINI

This reframing also helps explain why violence so often remains invisible within the health system – even to the women living through it.

A.K. Jayashree, head, department of community medicine at the Government Medical College in Kannur, Kerala, began her career volunteering with organisations, interacting with a large number of women subjected to intimate partner violence. But when she entered formal medical education as a teacher in 2009, she was struck by how little of this knowledge had translated into training. What was being taught to medical students neither reflected the realities she had seen on the ground, nor did it take into account evidence generated by decades of research.

Studies show that women come to outpatient departments repeatedly with non-specific complaints that do not resolve – chronic pain, tiredness, inability to sleep etc. – but medical students are not taught to look for everyday violence. As a result doctors are often unprepared for what they encounter in real-world settings: women may arrive at emergency departments after being beaten, accompanied by husbands or in-laws who answer questions on their behalf. Junior doctors may sense something is wrong but lack the training to ask safely, document accurately, or refer appropriately.

What information does reach medical students is fragmented. "Most of it is confined to forensic medicine, as a legal and evidentiary exercise," Dr. Jayashree says. "It is not taught in clinical subjects that actually shape how doctors practise."

Nancy Angeline Gnanaselvam, assistant professor of community medicine at St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru, says the women most visible to the system are not representative of those living with intimate partner violence. "What we see in crisis centres or one-stop facilities are usually women in extreme distress, often brought in by the police after calling helplines or when neighbours report the violence," she says.

Invisible group

The much larger, invisible group, she explains, are women who continue to live with their partners and do not want to file complaints or leave home. "They come with diabetes, hypertension, anxiety, and chronic pain. And we don't recognise what we are seeing." Intimate partner violence remains poorly understood within medicine because it sits at the uneasy intersection of healthcare, social services, and law enforcement, Dr. Nancy adds.

Even when violence is suspected however, care pathways frequently collapse.

Referrals to psychiatry or other mental health services are often resisted by families or blocked altogether. The physicians, who are the only people the women have safe access to, receive little training in even basic mental healthcare, let alone trauma-informed care. "So the woman remains treated symptom by symptom, while the cause remains untouched," says Dr. Nancy.

For Dr. Nancy, this is why reframing intimate partner violence as a public health and chronic disease issue matters. It shifts the focus away from isolated incidents and moral judgment, toward recognising the long-term disability and preventable illnesses it causes. Without that shift, she argues, the health system will continue to manage diabetes, heart disease, anxiety, and depression – while remaining blind to the violence that fuels them.

At this point, says Dr. Nancy, the official training to deal with issues faced by women in the National Medical Council curriculum is a one-hour lecture. According to her, gender must be an ongoing conversation brought up again and again in various health contexts. "This needs to make it into the curriculum of nurses, psychologists and other healthcare workers as well," adds Dr. Jayashree.

Beginning conversations

Last month, at the Sree Uthradom Thirunal Academy of Medical Sciences in Thiruvananthapuram, a panel discussion brought doctors together to talk about intimate partner violence.

The discussion did not frame violence in the language of chronic disease or disability. But its significance lay elsewhere: in the acknowledgement that domestic violence is not external to healthcare.

The conversation was a nod toward to shift that is now happening: moving intimate partner violence out of the margins of emergency care and social work, and into the core of how medicine understands illness, risk, and long-term health.

(Dr. Christianez Ratna Kiruba is an internal medicine doctor, with a passion for patient rights advocacy. christianezdennis@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Intimate partner violence is an insidious exposure that accumulates over years, shaping mental illness, non-communicable diseases, and long-term disability rather than presenting as a single, identifiable event. Domestic violence is no longer a social issue but a risk factor that impacts health

Studies show that women come to outpatient departments repeatedly with non-specific complaints that do not resolve — chronic pain, tiredness, inability to sleep etc. — but medical students are not taught to look for everyday violence

Reframing intimate partner violence as a public health and chronic disease issue matters. It shifts the focus away from isolated incidents and moral judgment, toward it being seen for the long-term disability and preventable illnesses it causes. Without that shift, the health system will continue to manage diabetes, heart disease, anxiety, and depression — while remaining blind to the violence that fuels them

Visibility and inclusion: advancing the case of children with disabilities

Ramya Kannan

An invisibility cloak is a prop that is sure to excite children; what better than a touch of magic, to vanish, disappear for others, even when you are right there. But for children with disabilities, being invisible is a terrible fact of life – being counted, is a challenge.

The cascade of other inadequacies in society that inhibits children with disabilities from achieving their full potential continues to be a call for action – on the part of communities and governments. With World Disabilities Day observed in early December, it is time to evaluate what more needs to be done, acknowledging that the barriers are physical, but also much more.

No disaggregated data

A recent UNICEF report reveals stark disparities in access to rights and services for the nearly 108 million children with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. Birth registration, in particular, is a fundamental human right. Yet for many persons with disabilities, especially children, the process is riddled with barriers. Tanja B. Sejersen, and Manal Hassan of the ESCAP's (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Statistics Division, say that a number of children in the region do not even have a birth certificate – thus impeding their access to basic rights, services such as health education and social protection. They argue, in an article, that "Civil registration, the official recording of life events such as births, deaths, marriages and divorces, is more than paperwork. It's a gateway to belonging."

"In terms of birth certification, in India, there's no explicit discrimination on the basis of disability," says Pratik Aggarwal, executive director, ASTHA, a non-governmental organisation working to include children with disabilities.

But he hastens to add: "When it's a larger ecosystem – how do you count children with disabilities? Apart from the Census and other surveys, we really don't have disaggregated data on the health conditions of children with disabilities. The National Family Health Survey should actually cover children with disabilities, but it doesn't. So, we don't have data on how many children with disabilities have been immunised, or how many children with disabilities are enrolled in anganwadis, how many of them have malnutrition. This is also undercounting of disability."

Need for attention: A UNICEF report reveals stark disparities in access to rights and services for the nearly 108 million children with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. G. RAMAKRISHNA

When a parent has a disability, or if both parents have some form of disability, it can be a nightmare trying to access hospitals and government systems in order to access treatments and services meant to assist them, including trying to figure out interventions for their child, school admissions, and immunisation, says Mr. Aggarwal.

Then the efforts to ensure the child gets a gainful education and is trained to be independent can be excruciatingly painful.

Expanding early intervention

Srinivas Tata, director of ESCAP's Social Development Division, says the "Incheon Strategy to 'Make the Right Real' for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific includes a goal to expand early intervention and education of children with disabilities. In 2022, ESCAP assessed the region's progress towards Incheon Strategy goals, and found most countries in the region were already implementing or in the process of designing early childhood intervention programmes." However, the quality and accessibility of these programmes varied, and many followed the medical model of disability rather than the social and rights-based model.

"Overall," he says, "children with disabilities are significantly less likely to attend and complete school – from preschool to upper-secondary school – than children without disabilities. Accessible learning environments, early identification and intervention capacity, and inclusive teaching and education are critical, but are not uniformly available in most countries. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a disruption in education, and those in need of special education models or strategies suffered more than children who did not need such interventions.

Early intervention and education are critical, Dr. Tata adds, as they have life-long impact.

"But change can only be accomplished if the ecosystem becomes more accessible and inclusive. For instance, without adequate and accessible disability benefits, children may not be able to access early intervention. When accessible public transport doesn't exist, children with disabilities in rural and remote areas won't be able to go to school easily. And unless the labour market becomes more inclusive, even highly educated persons with disabilities would fail to be an active member of the economy," he explains, indicating the disabling cascade that impacts the life of children with disability.

As Sejerson and Hasan add: "Inclusion isn't just about access – it's about recognition. It's about ensuring that every person, regardless of ability, is counted, seen and valued."

(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Additional vessels in Russia's shadow fleet targeted by the EU

41 The European Union imposed sanctions on 41 more ships in Russia's shadow fleet, taking the total of designated vessels to almost 600. The ships are banned from entering EU ports and can no longer receive a broad range of services related to maritime transport, the EU Council said. REUTERS

Number of public grievances received so far this year

21 In lakh. As many as 21,17,346 public grievances were received between January and December 9, of which 21,16,766 were disposed of. The government has undertaken a set of measures to reduce grievance pendency and improve the efficiency of the redressal process. PTI

The waterlogging-prone subways identified in India

2,670 Various railway zones carried out a survey and identified 2,670 out of a total 14,745 constructed road-under-bridges as prone to waterlogging earlier this year, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Lok Sabha in a written reply. PTI

Number of annual FASTag passes issued since August

40 In lakh. The government will implement barrier-free toll collection at all 1,050 toll plazas across the country by 2026. About 40 lakh annual FASTag passes have been issued in four months since August, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday. PTI

Number of civilians killed in April attack on a camp in Sudan

1,013 More than 1,000 civilians were killed during three days of attacks by Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces on the Zamzam displacement camp in April, the UN said, demanding a war crimes investigation. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Inside the DHRUV64 microprocessor

Who developed the DHRUV64 chip? What are the other chips within India's ecosystem of processors? What aspects have the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology not revealed about DHRUV64? What are some schemes started by the government to advance indigenous fab technologies?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

On December 15, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) announced the launch of DHRUV64, an indigenous microprocessor that it said would strengthen the national indigenous processor pipeline. Its purported applications span the breadth of electronics to industrial automation.

What is DHRUV64?

The DHRUV64 chip is a fully indigenous microprocessor developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under MEITY's Microprocessor Development Programme.

The microprocessor is a general-purpose 'brain' for electronics – a 64-bit, dual-core processor that runs at 1 GHz. These specifications could mean the processor is fast enough to run operating systems while also being efficient enough for embedded deployment.

India is a major market for processors yet continues to depend on imported designs and supply chains. To this end the Indian government has pitched for a "homegrown processor technology". Such processors sit at the base of everything from telecom networks to industrial control. So whoever controls their design, toolchain, and update pathways will also control security assumptions and resilience during export controls or supply shocks.

What do DHRUV64's specs mean?

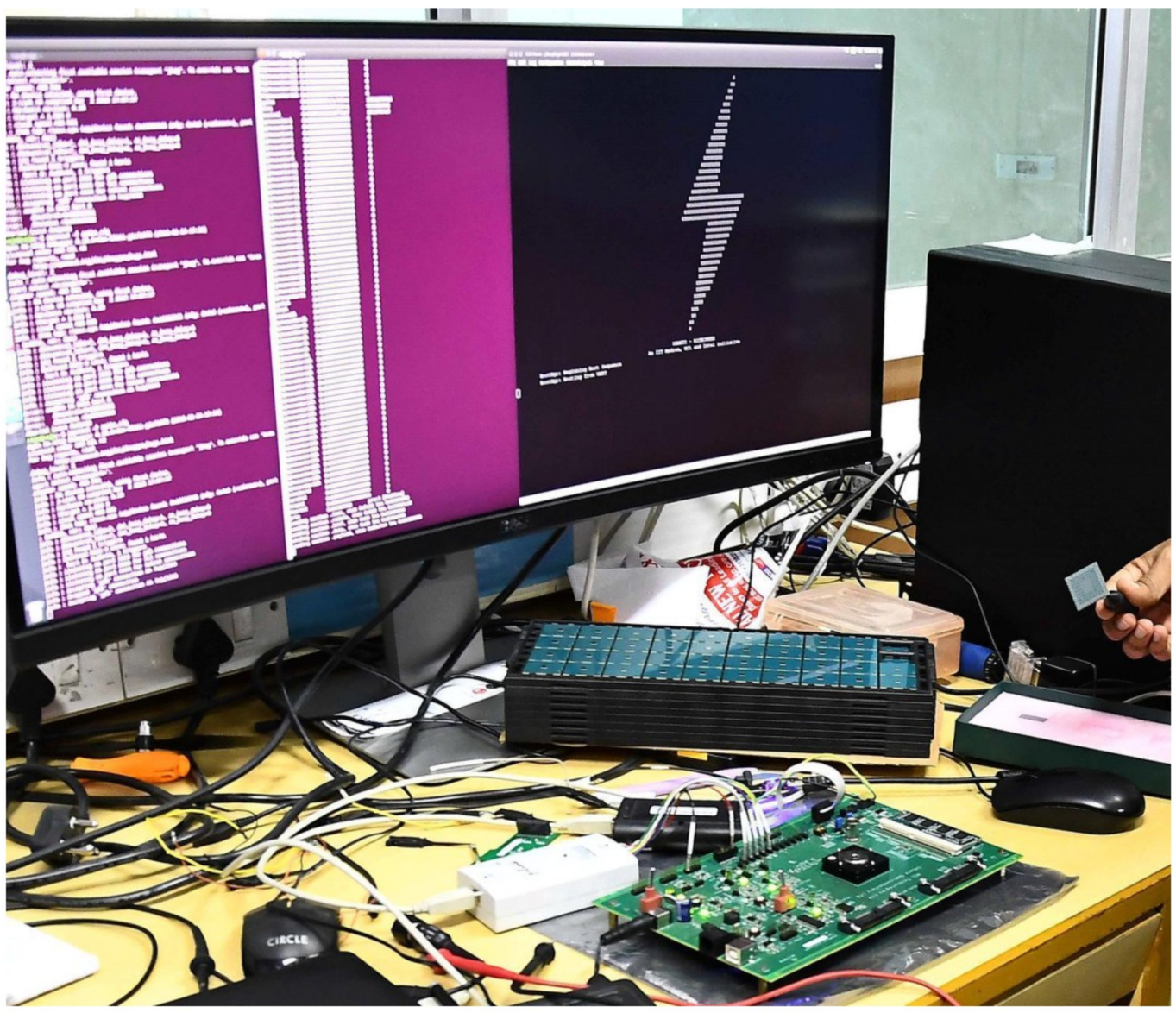
DHRUV64 is not a chip meant only for simple sensing or appliance logic. In general, 64-bit designs are used when users want modern operating systems and contemporary software.

The specified performance is low compared to top-tier consumer standards. Today's state-of-the-art smartphone and laptop processors tend to combine many more CPU cores with higher peak clock speeds. They also include specialised blocks like Graphic Processing Units (GPUs), which can efficiently handle machine-learning workloads.

This said, a lot of contemporary computing in the modern economy doesn't demand topline CPUs. These applications include base station subsystems in telecommunications, industrial controllers, routers, and many automotive modules. They prize reliability and better hardware-software integration. At the same time, as the technology publication *The Register* wrote, "Those are fields in which established chipmakers already offer mature products, and accompanying software and hardware development ecosystems. Even the most patriotic Indian electronics manufacturer would surely find it hard to put the DHRUV64 at the top of their bill of materials shopping list. India therefore has plenty left to do if DHRUV64 is going to win customers."

What processors is India working on?

According to MEITY, DHRUV64 is part of India's ecosystem of processors, including SHAKTI from IIT-Madras, AJIT from IIT-Bombay, VIKRAM from the ISRO-Semiconductor Lab, and THEJAS64 from C-DAC (2025). The needs these processors address include strategic operations, control systems in factories, spaceflight systems, and industrial automation. MEITY has also pitched DHRUV64 as a platform on which startups, academia, and industry can build and test products on, "without relying on foreign processors", and can develop prototypes for new system architectures at lower cost. This is commendable because all processors everywhere, from the Intel Core series to the Espressif processors in DIY electronics, only succeed when they have an ecosystem around them.



Another breakthrough: Team Shakti at work on the microprocessor project RISECREEK at IIT-Madras in Chennai in 2018. FILE PHOTO

What is DIR-V?

RISC-V (pronounced "risk five") is a set of basic instructions that a processor understands. A processor is like a cook who can only make the dishes written down in a recipe book. This book is the instruction set: it lists commands like "add two numbers", "move data from memory", "compare two values", "jump to another step in a program", etc.

RISC-V is an open instruction set, which means its core rules are publicly available and anyone can design a chip that follows them without paying a licence fee for the instruction set itself. This is different from instruction sets that are controlled by a company and licensed to others. There the chip designers will need to purchase licences, sign contracts, etc. This is why governments and research groups sometimes prefer RISC-V.

RISC-V is also modular: designers can start with a small, standard core, then add extra features like faster arithmetics or security features depending on what the chip is meant for. Put differently, different chips can speak the same base language while still being fine-tuned for different tasks. DHRUV64 is tied to the Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) programme, which aims to build a portfolio of RISC-V-based microprocessors for industry, military, and consumer technologies. THEJAS32 was the first India-designed chip DIR-V chip to be fabricated (in Malaysia) and THEJAS64 was the second, made at SCL Mohali. DHRUV64 is the third on this list. However, MEITY hasn't said where DHRUV64 was fabricated, which leaves doubts about the supply chain.

What is not known about DHRUV64?

MEITY's announcement of DHRUV64 is thin on the engineering information required to judge the chip's readiness. There are five issues in particular.

First, the claim about the chip's performance hasn't been contextualised in measurable terms. The headline specs, that is, 1 GHz, 64-bit, dual-core, are not accompanied by benchmarks, details of the memory subsystem (for example, cache sizes and memory controller features), input/output capabilities, and the performance per watt. The MEITY statement also says the design includes "modern architectural features" and "enhanced multitasking capability" but doesn't specify what they entail.

Second, the statement claims the processor's "modern fabrication leverages technologies used for high-performance chips" but doesn't specify the foundry, packaging, yields or reliability targets. Applications in the telecommunications and automotive sectors require these details because they're used to determine the chip's lifecycle availability and failure rates.

Third, MEITY's claim that the chip is "fully indigenous" is ambiguous. The note highlights RISC-V's open architecture and "no licence costs". However "indigenous" can also mean an indigenous instruction set, indigenous core microarchitecture, indigenous system-on-chip integration, indigenous toolchain, indigenous fabrication or indigenous ownership of critical IP blocks.

Fourth, the announcement doesn't address questions relevant to an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), for example, when developer boards will ship, which operating systems are supported, what security features and audit mechanisms the chip has, and whether the government plans to use them in anchor scenarios (where by using them it will reduce the risks associated with adoption).

Fifth, the development roadmap is not clear. The statement says C-DAC's next indigenous chip will be 'DHANUSH' and 'DHANUSH+'; they appear to currently be in the engineering or design stage.

The MEITY statement indicated DHANUSH will be a 1.2-GHz quad-core processor and that DHANUSH+ will be a 2-GHz quad-core processor. One 2023 C-DAC document also reported that DHANUSH will have a process node – a figure denoting the transistors' size – of 28 nm. *The Register* reported that DHANUSH+'s would be 14 or 16 nm.

What comes next?

India has been focusing on schemes to widen talent and the scope for start-ups. The 'Chips to Startup' programme, with an outlay of ₹250 crore over five years; the Design Linked Incentive scheme; and the INUP-i2i initiative are intended to improve access to nanofabrication facilities and training. As of 2025, the India Semiconductor Mission has also approved 10 projects in six States with investments of ₹1.6 lakh crore.

Against this backdrop, the government's plan for DHRUV64 seems to be a move towards system-on-chip families, more reference designs, better software support, and sufficient manufacturing and testing capacity for domestic products. The end goal is for Indian consumers to choose an Indian chip without assuming unacceptable costs or risk.

THE GIST

- The DHRUV64 chip is a fully indigenous microprocessor developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under MEITY's Microprocessor Development Programme.
- DHRUV64 is tied to the Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) programme, which aims to build a portfolio of RISC-V-based microprocessors for industry, military, and consumer technologies.
- The 'Chips to Startup' programme, with an outlay of ₹250 crore over five years; the Design Linked Incentive scheme; and the INUP-i2i initiative are intended to improve access to nanofabrication facilities and training.

4-year-old killed after bricks fall from under construction building

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The bricks that fell from the fourth floor of an under construction building on a makeshift cement-sheet shed at Chinnapannahalli in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A four-year-old girl was killed and three others, including two other children, injured after hollow bricks fell from the fourth floor of an under construction building at Chinnapannahalli in the HAL police station limits on Thursday.

Police said the incident occurred between 3 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. when around 10 to 12 hollow bricks fell from the upper floor of a building under construction and landed on a makeshift cement-sheet adjacent to the construction site. Many families, who were migrant labourers, used the shed as a house.

The police identified the building owner as Srinivasulu, who was allegedly carrying out construction work without adopting adequate safety measures or precautions, a police official claimed. "The deceased has been identified as Manushree, also known as Paru, daughter of Shrishail. She was rushed to a private hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead," the police official said. Three others who sustained injuries have been identified as Shriyan, 6, and Shekhar, 5, and Mamatha, 30, wife of Shrishail. The injured children were undergoing treatment, while Mamatha also received medical attention for her injuries. The police said the affected family members are residents of Bhoragi village in Sindagi taluk of Vijayapura district and had been living in the cement-sheet shed located beside the site.

The HAL police have registered a case. "Action will be taken based on the findings, including whether negligence and violation of safety norms at the construction site led to the fatal accident," the police added.

Repairs over, water supply restored

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has successfully completed a critical emergency repair on the Cauvery V Stage water supply project, working non-stop for 18 hours to restore services to the city.

BWSSB Chairman V. Ram Prasath Manohar said that the technical teams, working on a war footing, have successfully attended to the leakage in the scour valve of the massive 3,000 mm diameter transmission main. The major leakage was identified at chainage 5.2km from T. K. Halli. The repair work involved the complex task of replacing a damaged gasket along with broken nuts and bolts on the massive pipeline. To facilitate this critical repair, water supply was shutdown on Wednesday from 7.30 a.m. to Thursday at 2 a.m., he added.

3 held for gang rape of college student

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police arrested three men for allegedly raping a woman and recording the act on camera.

The accused, arrested on Wednesday, have been identified as Vikas and Prashanth, both college students, and Chetan, an electrician who is also married, all residents of a village in Magadi taluk.

According to the police, Vikas, the prime accused, allegedly developed a friendship with the woman and promised to marry her. He established a physical relationship with her. The accused allegedly filmed the act without the knowledge of the woman and showed the clip to the other accused. The woman alleged that Vikas used the video clip to threaten her and sexually assaulted her repeatedly.

In October, Vikas allegedly forcibly sexually assaulted her along with the two other accused, which was also filmed. The victim informed her family and approached the police.

The police have seized the mobile phones of the accused. The FIR has been registered.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, DEC. 19		
RISE	06:36	SET 17:58
RISE	05:52	SET 17:19
SATURDAY, DEC. 20		
RISE	06:36	SET 17:58
RISE	06:45	SET 18:11
SUNDAY, DEC. 21		
RISE	06:37	SET 17:59
RISE	07:37	SET 19:05

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	20
Mysuru	29	17
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
AUCTION PROGRAMME NOTICE NO. GSD/BLW/SCRAP/04/2025-26 Dt. 16.12.2025
Following is the schedule of e-auction to be held in the month of **'January, February & March' 2026** every Wednesday for sale of scrap under the jurisdictions of GSD/BLW, Varanasi.
Types of Auction: e-auction from (10:30 Hrs.), **Depot:** GSD/BLW/Varanasi, **e-auction Date of January-2026 (Wednesday): 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, e-auction Date of February-2026 (Wednesday): 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, e-auction Date of March-2026 (Wednesday):11th, 18th, 25th.** You are requested to actively participate in the above scheduled e-auction. For details please visit **IREPS** website at **www.ireps.gov.in**
PRO/BLW/S-52 Dy.CMM/Depot
/blwvaranasi website: www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810
IFT No. 18/2025-26/CALL-2 Dt.15.12.2025

ITEM WISE TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for 01 **works** under this division with KW-4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems, which has been approved under the head of account 5054-03-101-0-02-132 Major District road Bridges for the year 2025-26. The **Amount Put to Tender is Rs.316.01 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.4.74 Lakhs.** The Pre bid Meeting will be held in the undersigned office **at 11.00 A.M on 01.01.2026.** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 15.12.2025 to 15.01.2026, within 17.00 PM.** KPWD Class-II & above Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Mysuru Division, Mysuru
DIPR/DDMYS/1382/KSMCA/780/2025-26

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : Mandya No. 4 F, Vivekananda Nagar, Chikka Mandya Kere, Mandya - 571401 Mob.: 8660593395
Email id : recmandyaro@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]
TO BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

We, Canara Bank, had issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Further, Bank had served the said demand notices by affixture at the addresses given. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

Branch : Kanakapura Branch (0594)

Name And Address Of The Borrowers/ Co-borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors : 1) Borrower Cum Mortgator: Smt. Thejovathi W/o Arasaiah T K, Resident Of Tungani Village And Post, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka – 562117, **2) Co-borrower: Sri. Arasaiah T K** S/o Late Kalarasaiah, Resident Of Tungani Village And Post, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka – 562117 **3) Guarantor: Sri. Harish T A** S/o Arasaiah T K, Resident Of Tungani Village And Post, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka – 562117

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Date of Sanction	Limit	Liability with interest as on 08-12-2025	Rate of Interest (including 2% penal interest)
059460 5018114	Mortgage Loan	16-03-2019	Rs. 5,50,000.00	Rs. 1,89,931.28	13.75%
163002 901210	Pension Loan	14-08-2023	Rs. 4,00,000.00	Rs. 1,39,329.00	12.75%
		Total	Rs. 9,50,000.00	Rs. 3,29,260.28	

Total Liability Amount : **Rs.3,29,260.28 (Rupees Three Lakhs Twenty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Sixty and Twenty-Eight Paisa Only)** with further cost and charges, Interest and incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 06-12-2025 **Demand Notice Dated : 08-12-2025**
Name of Title holder : 1. SMT. THEJOVATHI W/O ARASAIAH T K
Equitable Mortgage of Immovable : All That Part And Parcel Of The Residential House Property Bearing PID No: 152900202400800301 And Khaneshumari No. 302/281 Situated At Tungani Village And Grama Panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk And Ramanagara District. **Measuring : East To West – 12.19 Meters, North To South – 13.72 Meters, Measuring 167.23 Square Meters Site And Built Area. Boundaries: East -** Road, **West -** House Of Kalarasaiah, **North -** Road And **South -** House Of Shivanna.

You are here by called upon to pay **Canara Bank**, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here above, failing which **Canara Bank** will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. The powers available to **Canara Bank** under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by **Canara Bank** shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 19-12-2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Mandya **Canara Bank**

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR
[ICAR, NAAC accredited and UGC u/s 12(B) & 2(f) approved]
Stores Purchase Officer, UAS, Raichur - 584104,
E-mail: spo@uasraichur.edu.in Ph: 08532-220165

E-Tender Notification No. SPO/UASR/E-Proc-12-Call-II&13-Call-II/ 2025-26, Dt: 15.12.2025.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur is inviting e-tender notification for 1.Establishment of center for solar operated Hydroponic technology complete on turnkey basis including procurement of hydroponic unit, furnitures, scientific equipments & construction works at UAS, Raichur

2. Establishment of center for Strengthening & demonstration of post-harvest physiological studies laboratory complete on turnkey basis including procurement of vacuum packing unit, furnitures, scientific equipments & construction works at UAS, Raichur. The interested suppliers are requested to participate through online only. Thewebsite address iswww.kppp.karnataka.gov.in(Indent Number:-UASRCR/2025-26/IND0066/Call-II& 0067/Call-II. The last date for submission of filled in Tender Document is 12.01.2026 up to 5.30 PM IST.

Sd/- Stores Purchase Officer
UAS, Raichur.
DIP/RCR/610/KSMCA/612/2025-26

TAHSILDAR'S OFFICE
Mini Vidhana Soudha, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru-560064.
Case No: LND/JALA/CR/20, 38/2018-19 Date: 16-12-2025

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

It is hereby notified to the concerned persons in respect of the land bearing Survey No. 175 and 176 (including the new survey numbers) of Bagalur village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka taluk, it is directed to conduct the survey work of the land bearing the above said survey number as explained in the daily order of the Hon'ble High Court No.: W.P.22500/2025 dated 03/12/2025. Accordingly, the said land has been fixed for measurement on 29/12/2025 at 10-00 AM. The interested parties having interest or right in the said land are requested to be present at the place in person with the relevant documents/purchase deeds in possession of the above survey number land. And request to present at the land till the completion of the measurement work and to cooperate with the Taluk Surveyors and Revenue Officers during the measurement work. The villagers and other members of the public have been asked to provide information about the survey work via telephone if they have information about the purchasers of the proposed land who do not reside in the village.

Date: 16/12/2025 **Sd/- Tahsildar,**
Place: Yelahanka DIPR/CP/SPAN/4516/2025-26 **Yelahanka Taluk, Yelahanka**

HOSAPETE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
I.S.R ROAD, CHITTAWADGI POLICE STATION BEHIND, HOSAPETE-583201, VIJAYANAGARA Dist. e-mail : hospethuda@gmail.com, Ph No. 08394-227749
No:HUDA/Planning/work/04/2025-26 **Date:15.12.2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION(Through e-Procurement)

The Budget of Hospet Urban Development Authority for the year 2025-26 has been approved by the government. As per the government's directions, an action plan has been prepared and administrative approval has been obtained and a tender has been invited through the KPPP portal for the following tender work and preparation of the Master Plan (P-2) map under the 2-cover system.

1.HUDA/2025-26/BD/work-indent29
Last date & time for tender Submission: **30.12.2025 at11:00 am**
Pre Bid Meeting Date: **24.12.2025 at 11:00 am**
Technical Bid Opening date and time for receipt of tenders: **31.12.2025 at 11.00 am**
Financial Bid Opening date and time for receipt of tenders : **02.01.2026at11:30 am**
Tender Opening Place.: **Hospet Urban Development Authority Office, ISR Road, Hosapete**

1.HUDA/2025-26/SE0006
Last date & time for tender Submission: **30.12.2025 at05:00 Pm**
Pre Bid Meeting Date: **24.12.2025 at 11:00 am**
Technical Bid Opening date and time for receipt of tenders : **31.12.2025 at 05.00 Pm**
Financial Bid Opening date and time for receipt of tenders : **02.01.2026at11:30 am**
Tender Opening Place.: **Hospet Urban Development Authority Office, ISR Road, Hosapete**

Interested Contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender, Contractors can download the tender documents from the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ e-procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically & tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Any Quarry Contact Office Telephone No:08394-227749.

Sd/- Commissioner
Hosapete Urban Development Authority
Hosapete, Vijayanagara District
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/405

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ROBERTSONPET KGF
Phone:08153-260256,
E-Mail: itstaff_ ulb_robertsonpet@yahoo.com
No:CMC/KGF/AEE/TND/07/2025-26 Date:12.12.2025

-: Tender Notification:-
(Through e-procurement only)

(1) City Municipal Council Robertsonpet KGF, invites Tenders From the Construction and supply of works and Service works detailed below. Two Cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP rules 2000 shall be followed. **(2)**Tender documents may be downloaded from government of Karnataka e-procurement website: **http://kppp.gov.in** **(3)** Tenders must be accompanied with earnest money deposit which will be paid online only through e-procurement **website: http://kppp.gov.in**. **(4)** Tenders must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal. **(5)** Further Information if required can be obtained from the office of the city municipal council, Robertsonpet, KGF During Working hours & For more Information contact **http://kppp.gov.in. Indent sl no.1,** DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT52372 estimate cost Rs.211.52 lakhs, **Indent sl no.2,** DMA/2025-26/SE/WORK_INDENT6744, EMD RS. 50.000

Sd/- **Sd/-**
DR॥ M.R.RAVI **ANJANEYALU J.B**
Administrative officer **Commissioner**
City Municipal Council KGF **City Municipal Council KGF**
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:411/KSMCA/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri - O&M), 8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	Kaveri (O&M)-1	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/ AE/2025/2357/2025-26 Date: 16.12.2025	Rs.78,93,980/- / Rs.1,60,000/-	26.12.2025 upto 4.00 pm	29.12.2025 after 4.01 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/ AE/2025/2353/2025-26 Date: 15.12.2025 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.18,14,666/- / Rs.25,000/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/ AE/2025/2351/2025-26 Date: 15.12.2025	Rs.38,09,194/- / Rs.76,500/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/ AE/2025/2359/2025-26 Date: 16.12.2025	Rs.13,14,382/- / Rs.32,900/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-1

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

5	(East-2)	BWSSB/2025-26/WS/ Work_Indent2692/Call-2 (Reserved for Category IIA)	Rs.67,48,500/- / Rs.67,500/-	27.12.2025 upto 4.00 pm	29.12.2025 at 4.00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-2)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/4520/AKAR/2025-26

Zilla Panchayat, Bengaluru South
BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT
2nd Floor, Zilla Panchayat Bhavan, B.M. Road, Ramangara, Bangalore South Dist.
Ph. 080-27276047, E-Mail : dobcmramanagara@gmail.com
No. BCWD/BSD/EST-CR-15/2025-26 **Date :** 17.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Inviting Tender for the Financial Year 2025-26 for Supply of outsource service Like:

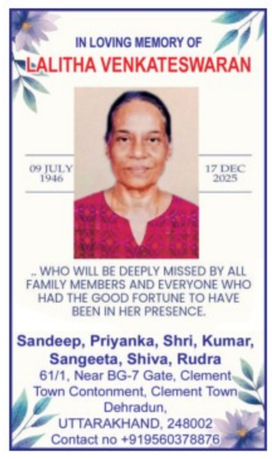
(a) Cook, Assistant cook, Night Watchman to pre-metric & post metric hostels /ashrama schools.
(b) Data entry operator To District Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Bangalore South District.
(c) Data entry operators to all 4 taluk offices of Backward Classes Welfare Department, Bangalore South District.
(d) First Division Assistant, Staff Nurse, Assistant Teacher, Cook, Assistant Cook, Night Watchman, Peon and Sweeper to all Morarji Desai Residential Schools which Coming Under Backward Classes Welfare Department, Bangalore South District.

Last date for submission of Tender is : **15.01.2026**, Time: **5:00 pm**. Interested eligible bidders Registered in e-procurement Visit the web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for submission of Tender. For Further Information Contact **080-27276047** (Within Duty Hours Excluding Public Holidays).

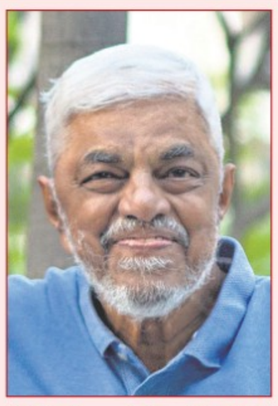
Sd/- District Officer
Backward Classes Welfare Department,
Bangalore South District.
DIPR/SAD/506/SA/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

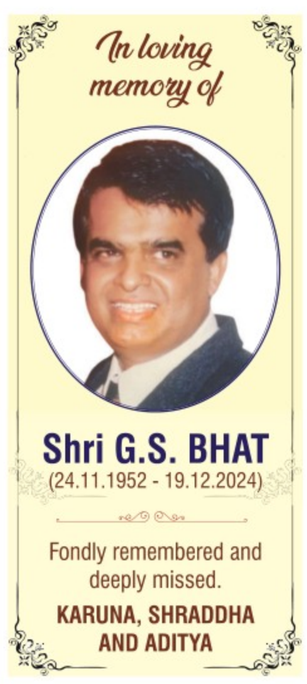


DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



P.C Padmanabhan Nair (69) passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 18, 2025, leaving a legacy of a life lived fully and without regrets. A man of immense warmth and color, he will be remembered for his boundless love and zest for life.

He is survived by his wife Shailaja Nair; daughter, Pooja, son, Suraj; and grandchildren Anya and Agastya. His vibrant spirit lives on in our hearts.



IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from 'Dhurandhar'. YOUTUBE

How 'Dhurandhar' is a prime example of government-embedded filmmaking

'Dhurandhar' features Ranveer Singh as an Indian spy infiltrating a Pakistani terror network. While some viewers celebrate its patriotic themes as a necessary response to historical narratives about Pakistan, the film perpetuates a one-dimensional view of the country and reinforces divisive tropes

Nissim Mannathukkaren

The Hindi film *Dhurandhar* is becoming a sensation and a debate. It shows an Indian spy (Ranveer Singh) infiltrating a Pakistani gangster/terror network through Operation Dhurandhar. But the film, ironically, displays another kind of infiltration, putting it under a genre called "government-embedded filmmaking', as coined by American writer Peter Maas. If the concept refers to the government giving special access to military/intelligence documents to induce favourable filmic portrayals of the security apparatus, here, I use it to mean how the ideological narrative of the government is being faithfully reproduced – a regular phenomenon now in India.

Different responses

Dhurandhar is different from many other government-embedded films in that it has combined commercial film elements with some technical finesse in direction, screenplay, cinematography, art direction, and acting. Besides, it has infused some realism at the expense of melodrama. This distinguishes the director Aditya Dhar from the Sudipto Sens (*Kerala Story*) and the Vivek Agnihotris (*The Kashmir Files; The Bengal Files*).

Dissenters of the politics of the film, like film critics, and actor Hrithik Roshan, have faced intense online hate and harassment. There have been two kinds of responses towards the film from its fans. One strand has proudly owned the film, whether it is propaganda or not. For it, the film depicts real Pakistan-perpetrated terror events. It asserts there is nothing wrong in showing patriotism in films, and that Bollywood has historically produced propaganda hiding the "real truths" of Pakistani terrorism, and advocated for peace with Pakistan. *Dhurandhar*, therefore, is "a cinematic correction," and a "cultural counterstrike." As a person wrote in response to Hrithik Roshan: "You literally glorified this barbaric Akbar and today you have the audacity to call *Dhurandhar* as propaganda. Shame on you," referring to Mr. Roshan playing Akbar in *Jodhaa Akbar* (2008). Notably, these sentiments, which speak to nationalism, as well as deep Hindu victimhood, are not just restricted to the Hindu far right.

The second response denies that the film is propaganda, and asserts that it is an espionage drama with a nationalist-perspective, similar to the likes which Hollywood regularly churns out. Even if it selectively dramatises events, it falls within legitimate genre conventions. The latter is a misreading for, as the biggest practitioners of political propaganda have shown, the most effective propaganda is one which is barely noticed. *Dhurandhar*'s distinctive quality is that it is not in your face with ideological sloganeering, yet it is in sync with Hindu nationalism and, specifically, policies of the present government.

Reinforcing the official narrative

Scenes of the film depict a Kandahar plane hijacker saying, "Hindus are cowards" (there is no historical record of this); there are scenes interspersed with real audio footage from 26/11, which evokes the barbarity of the terrorists; and brutal killings are celebrated by the conspirators with chants of 'Allah uh Akbar'. Without any scenes that show a Pakistani Muslim opposed to terrorism or enmity with India, the film preps the viewer to adopt the Pakistani state/terrorist view of "Muslim Pakistan" versus "Hindu India."

The film dramatises the frustrations of a central character, intelligence chief Ajay Sanyal (resembling National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and played by R. Madhavan), with the Indian State's weak-kneed responses to Pakistani terror attacks in the 1990s/2000s. Instead of dovish initiatives such as Aman ki Asha, an India-Pakistan peace project, Sanyal advocates for proactive anti-terror policies like Operation Dhurandhar.

While *Dhurandhar* makes a moderate criticism of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in power during the Kandahar hijack and 2001 Parliament attacks, serious criticism is directed at the Congress/non-BJP governments at the centre and in Uttar Pradesh. A Union Minister is accused of having links with a Pakistani fake currency racket in 2005; slaughterhouses in U.P. are linked to it too, with any action on them leading to riots (leaving the audience to guess the identity of the community running slaughterhouses). It is stated that the real enemies of India are within, not outside – a familiar Hindu nationalist trope. Another similar stereotype is of Pakistani conspirators mocking Indian cowardliness in not responding to the 26/11 attacks of 2008.

There is a running reference in the film to still persist with diligent intelligence work hoping that a future "nationalist CM" of U.P. can use it (an explicit nod to Yogi Adityanath). The film ends with the slogan '*Yeh Naya Bharat Hain, Ghar Mein Ghuske Maarta Hain*' (this is new India, it will enter your [enemy's] home and attack you), which is a reference to Prime Minister's Modi's popular slogan. The film becomes propaganda because it lionises a powerful security figure of the present government, and partisanly lauds the government which has made muscular military and counterterrorism strategies as its distinguishing feature.

Moreover, *Dhurandhar*, despite bringing some human elements to gangsters and breaking some stereotypes by depicting modern nightlife, still does not change an average Indian's view of Pakistan. Pakistan is monochromatically monstrous: it is the source of all terrorism in the world, says a character. We largely only see gangsters, ISI, politicians and the Army who concertedly want to inflict a thousand bleeding cuts on India. Even the gangster from the dissident Baloch community parrots this. From *Dhurandhar,* we would not know that there were Pakistani newspaper articles post 26/11 urging Pakistanis to see the horrors perpetrated in the name of Islam, and those even apologising to Indians. We would not know that the Lyari neighbourhood in Karachi, the den of crime and terror networks in the film, is also "Mini Brazil," famous for its hip hop and passion for football.

Selective memory

Dhurandhar's success is also a commentary on the abysmal nature of Bollywood filmmaking, and the cartoonish, comic military and spy thrillers that it churns out, like the Yash Raj Films Spy Universe. Thus, for its admirers, the male-centric *Dhurandhar*, in which blood curdling violence is aestheticised, appears more relatable than thrillers showing Indian intelligence operatives either romancing Pakistani counterparts or turning rogue to aid the enemy.

The *Dhurandhar* debate also shows how public memory is selective. While many assert that this is a cultural reclaiming of Bollywood, they ignore that since the 1990s there has been an explosion of jingoistic Bollywood films, even before political shifts in 2014, centred on Pakistani terrorism, Kashmir Islamist militancy, Pakistan wars, and even Indian agents infiltrating Pakistan (*Roja*, *Border*, *Sarfarosh*, *Mission Kashmir*, *Maa Tujhe Salaam*, *Gadar*, *The Hero*, *LOC-Kargil*, *Ab Tumhare Hawale Hai Watan Saathiyon*, *Attacks of 26/11*, *D-Day*, *Baby*, *Phantom*, etc.).

A vast majority of these films demonised Pakistani people and not just the Pakistani state/terrorists. *Dhurandhar* says nothing new; but its deep and partisan immersion in the present government's avowed narratives, even when they remain in the background and couched in a believable world, puts it as another addition to the growing camp of government-embedded filmmaking.

Nissim Mannathukkaren is with Dalhousie University, Canada.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Messi's tour of India grabbed the headlines last week. A quiz on the football player

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
Messi's jersey number is also Sachin Tendulkar's jersey number. It was also worn in football by legends such as X and Y, who were the joint winners of the FIFA Player of the Century. What's the number? Also name X and Y.

QUESTION 2
Last month, Messi visited X and said he hoped to return there one day. The presidential candidate of X has also said he will do everything he can to bring Messi back if he wins next year's election. What is X?

QUESTION 3
This Uruguayan player provided the most assists for Messi for his Barcelona goals. He just signed a one-year deal to stay at Inter Miami. He also visited India. Who is he?

QUESTION 4
Only two accounts have more followers on Instagram than Messi. One is Cristiano Ronaldo. Who is the other?

QUESTION 5
Which club has Messi scored the most goals against in his career?

QUESTION 6
In which Indian city has a 70-ft Messi statue been installed?

Visual question:
This Argentinian was Messi's idol while growing up. He is currently the assistant coach of the Argentina national team. Who is he?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the movie directed by Spielberg based on a novel by Alice Walker. **Ans: *The Color Purple***
2. Name the movie that won Spielberg his first Academy award. **Ans. *Schindler's List***
3. Name the movie co-written by Spielberg which was based on his group of childhood friends. **Ans: *The Fabelmans***
4. Name the movie that won Spielberg the Distinguished Public Service Award. **Ans: *Saving Private Ryan***
5. Name the first feature film directed by Spielberg. **Ans: *The Sugarland Express***
Visual: Name the boy and the movie this still is from. **Ans: Christian Bale, *Empire of the Sun***
Early Birds: Sadhan Panda| Ambarin Aslam| M. Suresh Kumar| Deepak Sudhir| Abhay Krishan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

S. Upendran

"Hi! You look different. Is it your hair?"
"Yes. I had a headbath this morning."
"I see."
"What – No reaction? When I told Sujatha the same thing she started to laugh. She said that the word 'headbath' doesn't exist."
"Of course it exists. We Indians use it all the time."
"I know that we Indians use it. But what about native speakers of English? Do they use it?"
"No, native speakers don't use this word. They would say 'I washed my hair', instead of 'I had a headbath'."
"I wash my hair twice a week. But tell me, is it wrong to ...."
"Within India the word 'headbath' is more or less acceptable. But as I said, native speakers don't use it."
"I see. Tell me, are there any other words that are commonly used here that are not used by native speakers of English? You've already told me that the words 'tiffin' and 'prepone' are not used by them."
"Let me think now. Native speakers..... Ah, yes! Native place!"
"You mean that 'native place' is Indian?"
"We have a tendency to say 'My native place is Mumbai.' A native speaker of English on the other hand, would say, 'My home town is Mumbai'."
"I see. My cousin's home town is Hyderabad."
"Speaking of cousins, weren't you and your cousin supposed to go to some remote village and...."
"....that's right! We got back two hours ago."
"That was pretty quick. How did you manage it? Did you leave early?"
"No. My cousin drove very fast. In many places he was overspeeding."
"Why was he speeding?"
"He was overspeeding because...."
"...not 'overspeeding', but 'speeding'."
"....but what's wrong with 'overspeeding'?"
"When you say that you were 'speeding', it implies that you were driving fast. You were driving beyond the legal speed limit. In other words, you were driving over the speed limit."
"I see. Since 'speeding' implies 'over the speed limit', I guess there is no point in attaching the word 'over' to it."
"Exactly! The word 'over' is unnecessary. In U.S., when you go beyond the legal speed limit, the policeman stops you and gives you a speeding ticket. He fines you for speeding."
"He doesn't give a ticket for 'overspeeding', I guess?"
"No. he doesn't. But tell me, why was your cousin speeding?"
"He is taking part in a tennis tournament this evening. And he needs to buy a half pant."
"A half pant?"
"Yes. Half pants are on sale at...."
"...do you know that 'half pant' and 'full pant' are not used by native speakers of English?"
"What do they call a 'half pant' then?"
" 'Half pants' are referred to as 'shorts'.
Published in The Hindu on January 12, 1999.

Word of the day

Ostracise:
expel from a community or group; avoid speaking to or dealing with

Synonyms: ban, banish, blackball, cast out, shun

Usage: *Ever since I spoke up, my colleagues have ostracised me.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/ostracisepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɒstɹəsaɪz/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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A BG-BGE

A decade on, Wind Tunnel Underpass still stuck

The project was planned to ensure a smooth commute for travellers and cater to the growing number of vehicles accessing the stretch

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

While the Bengaluru civic authority is dreaming of building a 16.7-km tunnel road, the 300-metre Wind Tunnel underpass on HAL Airport Road, planned 11 years ago, has not seen even one percent of work on the ground.

The Central City Corporation is keen on reviving and completing the Wind Tunnel Junction underpass. However, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has been rejecting permission to carry out works on the road, citing that it would paralyse at least five of the ten most notorious traffic stretches in Bengaluru.

The Wind Tunnel Road junction in East Bengaluru where an underpass has been planned to make the stretch signal-free in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

In 2014, the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) issued a work order to RNS Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. to redevelop the 16.5-km stretch of HAL Airport Road between ASC Junction and Hope Farm Junction at a cost of ₹135.25 crore. The project was planned to ensure a smooth commute for travellers and cater to the growing number of vehicles accessing the stretch. As part of the plan, the road was to be made signal-free, which required underpasses at Kundalahalli Junction, Suranjan Das Junction, and Wind Tunnel Junction. After repeated extensions of deadlines for the Kundalahalli and Suranjan Das underpasses, the civic body opened them in 2022 and 2023, respectively. However, the last of the three underpasses remains stalled.

Why is it important?

HAL Airport Road is a crucial link connecting Central and East Bengaluru. The alternative route is Old Madras Road. However, due to unprecedented development in the eastern outskirts, vehicle numbers have increased dramatically post 2015, according to the Traffic Police.

"We sometimes see peak hours extending for one hour in both mornings and evenings on HAL Airport Road and Old Madras Road. If we close even a small stretch of any of these roads, especially HAL Road, which houses many hospitals and connects to the Outer Ring Road, even the bylanes will be paralysed," said a senior police officer from the east division.

According to documents accessed by *The Hindu*, the civic body has requested the BTP seven times in the last four years to allow closure of the stretch for construction. Each request was denied, as there is no suitable alternative route.

According to the BTP, even partial closure of the stretch would choke Indiranagar 100 Ft. Road, 80 Ft. Road, Suranjan Das Road, and Old Madras Road. All these roads witness slow-moving traffic during peak hours. Except for Suranjan Das Road, the remaining stretches also have traffic signals, which would further slow movement. The main reason, the BTP said, is that residents of Central and southeastern Bengaluru would be left with no alternative routes and would be forced to use these roads.

Despite these hurdles, the civic body and the BTP explored an alternative in the form of a road located inside a private property between southeastern and eastern Bengaluru, owned by a well-known political figure.

However, the people's representative reportedly refused to allow traffic through the property.

New plan

An official from the Central City Corporation told *The Hindu* that there is a road inside the NAL and ISRO campuses, which are adjoining and run parallel to the 300-m stretch where the underpass is proposed. However, the stretch is very close to an ISRO owned structure which is considered "sensitive".

Now, the civic body has outlined one more plan where the stretch inside NAL will be connected to another road inside ISRO campus, which will take a long deroute before connecting to the HAL Airport Road again. "We have held several rounds of meetings with them and have pinned all our hopes on their decision," the official said.

The Hindu has learnt that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner will also hold a joint inspection with ISRO and NAL officials and put forth the proposal.

40% completed

The civic body has already completed 40% of the project in terms of casting work. To proceed further, the officials need to excavate the land, place the castings spanning 50 metres, and then build up and down ramps totalling 250 m.

If the BTP agrees to a full closure of the stretch, the work can be completed in 90 days. If only partial closure is permitted, the project may take up to 195 days to complete, the civic officials said.

However, uncertainty continues to loom over the project as the BTP will refuse to permit construction until the civic body identifies a viable alternative route. Among the available options, none has worked out so far.

(This is the fifth in a multi-part series)

The details

- **Project:** Wind Tunnel Underpass (part of the ₹135.25-crore HAL Airport Road redevelopment plan)
- **Allocated cost:** ₹19 crore
- **Underpass length:** 350 metres
- **Overall project commencement:** 2014
- **Initial deadline:** 2018
- **New deadline:** Yet to be discussed

Power shutdown tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several areas in the city will experience a power outage on Saturday, December 20, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., as the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) undertakes quarterly maintenance work.

The scheduled maintenance involves servicing the 31.5 MVA Transformer-2 and associated feeders at the 220/66/11 kV HAL Station. Localities likely to be affected include Indiranagar, Defence Colony, 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar 1st and 2nd Stage, 80 Feet Road, CMH Road, Krishna Temple Road, Jeevan Bhima Nagar, Thippasandra, Malleshpalya, Maruthi Nagar, Basavanagara, Vibhutipura, Doddanekundi, and surrounding areas. Residents have been advised residents to plan accordingly during the period.

A view of the Russell Market at Shivajinagar in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Start Russell Market redevelopment work, directs GBA chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao on Thursday directed the officials to immediately invite tenders for the redevelopment of Russell Market at Shivajinagar in east Bengaluru.

The direction was issued during an inspection in the Shivajinagar Assembly Constituency limits under the Central City Corporation.

Pointing out to the completed Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project, Mr. Rao asked officials to expedite further process.

He emphasised the heritage value of the Russell Market and said that the redevelopment must strike a balance between modern infrastructure and preservation of its historic legacy.

Mr. Rao directed officials to ensure transforming the market into a vibrant, sustainable and people-friendly space.

The Chief Commissioner told the officials to make temporary alternative arrangements for traders in the market before the work begins so that they do not face any inconvenience.

The GBA chief also instructed that proper drainage system be put in place and adequate measures taken to prevent water stagnation, particularly in parking areas.

To ensure cleanliness, the officials were asked to implement a comprehensive waste segregation and composting system. "All redevelopment works, including fire safety systems, toilet facilities, granite flooring in public movement areas, clock tower design and other related infrastructure, must be executed with high-quality standards," Mr. Rao said.

He further instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive plan for the development of areas surrounding the Russell Market.

As part of the efforts to improve revenue, the officials were directed to revise property taxes in and around the Russell Market area and conduct a tax drive to enhance property tax collection.

Rizwan Arshad, MLA for Shivajinagar, said, "The Russell Market is a very old heritage building and assured that redevelopment will be carried out carefully without damaging the structure. He assured full cooperation to ensure that no local issues arise during the process, adding that the redesigned market would prioritise ease of movement, visibility and accessibility for both vendors and customers."

During the inspection of Ulsoor Lake, Mr. Rao noted that the lake receives water from three inlets and instructed officials to prepare a plan to develop a civic waterway on the K-100 model.

He also directed that the ongoing Ulsoor Lake development work be completed at the earliest.

GBA to transform storm-water drains across city from sewage-carrying channels into public and ecological spaces

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) aims to transform storm-water drains (SWD) from sewage-carrying channels into public and ecological spaces, Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao, said on Thursday, underscoring the need for nature-based solutions to address Bengaluru's recurring flooding and rapidly declining groundwater levels.

Mr. Rao was speaking at a multi-stakeholder dialogue titled 'Nature-based Solutions for Bengaluru: Reflections on Drainage', convened by the Jana Urban Space Foundation (JUSF) in the city.

The convention brought together senior government officials, urban practitioners, researchers, civil society organisations, and industry stakeholders to deliberate on reimagining the city's drainage systems through ecological approaches, according to a release.

Outlining the GBA's priorities, Mr. Rao said, "Efforts were under way to prevent sewage from entering storm-water drains, strengthen underground drainage networks, create additional storm-water capacity, and make better use of Bengaluru's lake system by enhancing storage."

He further stressed that restoring the ecological function of drains and lakes was critical to improving the city's flood resilience.

GBA Chief Commissioner says efforts are under way to prevent sewage from entering SWDs, strengthen underground drainage networks, create additional storm-water capacity, and make better use of the city's lake system by enhancing storage. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Mr. Rao also released a draft working paper titled "Rebuilding Urban Drainage Systems: Learnings from Nallurahalli Nallah Rejuvenation in Bengaluru". The paper gains insights from a nature-based solutions-led pilot project and outlines pathways to integrate such approaches across storm-water drains, nallahs, lakes, and groundwater recharge systems at scale. The draft has been shared to invite informed critique and inputs before finalisation, a release stated.

The dialogue featured five thematic discussions examining urban drainage and nallahs, lake rejuvenation and community stewardship, rainwater harvesting, institutional and financing frameworks, and best practices from other Indian cities.

Participants noted that Bengaluru's water challenges marked by flooding during monsoons and groundwater depletion despite significant rainfall stem from systemic gaps in planning, governance, and coordination rather than isolated infrastructure failures.

According to the release, speakers emphasised the need to break departmental silos and move away from fragmented, project-based engineering responses towards integrated, catchment-based approaches that combine ecological design with resilient grey infrastructure. There was broad consensus that accelerating run-off by widening drains often shifts flood risks downstream while worsening groundwater depletion.

Experts call for neuro-justice framework in motor accident cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Legal and medical experts on Thursday called for a reset in the way neurological disabilities arising from road accidents are assessed and compensated, urging courts to move beyond anatomy-based medical opinions to functional, task-based disability frameworks.

The call was made at a press conference following a panel discussion on "Neuro Justice Framework: Motor Accident Cases - Head Injury Disability and Medical and Legal Pain Points", organised by the Advocates' Association, Bengaluru, with Rebooting the Brain (PRS Neurosciences).

Former Karnataka High Court judge A.V. Chandrashekar; advocate and president of the Advocates' Association, Bengaluru, Vivek Reddy; senior advocate Chethana Bhat; stereotactic and functional neurosurgeon and CMD of PRS Neurosciences Sharan Srinivasan; CEO and chief medical and rehabilitation director of PRS Neurosciences Prathiba Sharan; and insurance law expert Manjunath were among the panellists.

Former Karnataka High Court judge A.V. Chandrashekar at a press briefing in Bengaluru on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The speakers pointed out that while India recorded about 1.77 lakh road accident deaths in 2024, official statistics do not capture the far larger number of survivors left with lifelong neurological disabilities following head, spinal cord and nerve injuries. Many of these impairments are invisible, have delayed onset and are difficult to quantify through conventional medical reports, they said.

Pendency

Motor accident claim cases involving neurological injuries contribute significantly to pendency before tribunals and courts, the panel noted. Judges are often required to assess lifelong functional disability and loss of earning capacity on the basis of anatomy-centric medical opinions, which do not adequately reflect real-world functioning, employability or independent living.

Medical experts from PRS Neurosciences emphasised that no single test or scan can capture real-life brain function, making task-based, contextual and longitudinal assessments essential for fairness and accuracy.

Pointing out that neurological injuries more often do not leave any visible scars, Dr. Srinivasan said, "Survivors may appear physically normal, yet struggle with cognition, emotional regulation, decision-making and the ability to return to work."

Not easy to show

Because such disabilities are not easily demonstrable, claimants often face scepticism, prolonged hearings and repeated litigation. This results in inconsistent compensation, added emotional and financial strain on families, and further delays in the justice delivery system, the panelists said.

Former judge Mr. Chandrashekar observed that courts lack scalable tools to translate complex neurological impairments into legally usable conclusions, despite repeated judicial acknowledgement of the problem.

The discussion also marked the launch of a proposed National Neuro Justice Movement, aimed at fostering sustained collaboration between legal institutions, medical experts and policymakers to shift India's approach from anatomy-based evaluation to functional justice grounded in lived reality.

'Aerospace start-ups should shed classical approach to innovation'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somanath on Thursday expressed concern over the competence and capability to innovate among start-ups and companies working in the domain of aerostructures.

S. Somanath

Speaking at the International Conference on Advances in Computational and Experimental Approaches in Aerostructures, Mr. Somanath said, "I think it is a point of concern to me because I have been going around the country and looking at start-ups and companies who have been designing aerospace structures. Concerning hardwares, especially in the domain of aerospace structures, I am not seeing that type of competence or that type of capability to innovate or do things differently than in the past."

He added that classical approaches still continue and integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in practice is not happening.

"Possibly some of you might differ with me, but the classical approaches still continue though you talk about data driven models. The AI integration of this is being talked about in practice but not happening. Of course, it is happening in the domain of companies who are coming out with solutions because multi-physics problem-solving software is coming in our midst and using it to find solutions has become a routine," he added.

Mr. Somanath said that he has also not been able to see much progress around digital twins in the aerostructures sector. "It may be happening in academics and on a small-scale level, but on a larger scale it is still not visible in institutions where they are actually practicing it," Mr. Somanath said.

High Court sets aside decision to discontinue Jan Aushadhi Kendras on hospital premises

The court terms the government's action 'politics in delivery of medicines'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "there should be public interest in politics and not politics in public interest", the High Court of Karnataka has quashed the State government's May 2025 policy decision to discontinue PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras set up on the premises of all taluk government hospitals across the State.

The court has also quashed all the consequential actions initiated by the authorities, including orders issued for closure of existing kendras on government hospital premises.

The court also quashed all the consequential actions initiated by the authorities, including orders issued for closure of existing kendras on government hospital premises. K. MURALI KUMAR

'Politics'

Pointing out that the issue "revolves around politics in delivery of medicines in the name of public interest", the court said that the State government has "not shown that continuation of the kendras is illegal or harmful" and hence the government "cannot renege on its prior commitments" on allowing these kendras, which provide medicines 50% to 80% discounts.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing around 24 petitions, filed by Jagadeesh Moger of Bhatkal in Uttara Kannada district and others. The petitioners had questioned the validity of the May 14, 2025, notification issued by the State government withdrawing its 2016 policy decision to allow setting up of Jan Auashadhi kendras in over 200 government hospital premises. "The intent of supply of free medicine, appears to be an intent only," the court said, while noticing claim made on behalf of the petitioners that in many government hospitals the patients are administered medicines by procuring them through Jan Auashadhi kendras. The State government had claimed its present policy is to supply free medicines to patients in all government hospitals either procuring through Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation from Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), or allowing hospital procure medicine from BPPI, which is co-ordinate marketing of the generic drugs through the Jan Aushadhi stores.

Legitimate expectation

The court said that the petitioners, who are allowed to run these kendras for past five to seven years based on the 2016 policy of the State government, do have a legitimate expectation to continue.

Stating that it is the citizen who stands to suffer "in the cross-fire between institutional egos and administrative indecision or excesses of administrative decisions," judge Nagaprasanna said that "the constitutional courts exist precisely to prevent such collateral damage."

"Public interest must be the soul of governance, not a slogan to justify abrupt policy reversals," the court said, while directing the authorities not to interfere with the kendras operated by the petitioners.

Govt. yet to refund educational expenses of 461 students who lost their fathers due to drought in State

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Karnataka government has not paid the educational expenses of as many as 461 children of farmers who ended their lives due to drought in the State over the last five years.

From the academic year of 2020-21 to 2024-25, a total of 797 students, the children of farmers who ended their lives due to drought across the State, have applied for their educational expenses. Of these, only 336 students have been paid a total of ₹45.94 lakh.

Responding to a question raised by Member of Legislative Council (MLC) from Janata Dal (Secular) Govindaraju in this regard, at the ongoing legislature session, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said that the educational expenses of the remaining 461 students were pending due to non-submission of proposals from the respective districts.

The government has been bearing the entire educational expenses, including hostel charges, of children of farmers who ended their lives due to drought in the State since 2016-17. Between 2017-18 and 2024-25, the DSEL received 1,589 applications of which 1,128 applicants have got their refund.

Proposal

Following applications made by the students, the district level DSEL officials have to submit a proposal to the State government with documents, including certified copies of names of the parents in the Students Achievement Tracking System (SATS) and death certificate of the farmer parent who ended his/her life. In the case of these 461 students, such proposals have not been submitted from the districts.

Fact sheet

Year	Details of pending students
2020-21	0
2021-22	0
2022-23	163
2023-24	184
2024-25	114
Total	461

The School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) Association has condemned the lackadaisical attitude of the DSEL officials and demanded that the educational expenses of all 461 students be immediately refunded. "Children who have lost their parents are already in distress. The negligence of the DSEL officials at the district level is inhumane. The government should take immediate action to refund these expenses to all eligible students and take action against officials who caused this delay," said Umesh G. Gangavadi, State president, SDMC Association.

(Those who are in distress and having suicidal tendencies can seek help from Arogya Sahayavani Ph:104)

Seventh train set for Yellow line reaches depot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The seventh train set for Namma Metro's Yellow Line arrived at the Hebbagodi depot in Bengaluru on Thursday evening.

According to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) sources, the newly arrived train will be inducted into revenue service in early January after completing mandatory inspections and safety testing. The train sets were dispatched by Kolkata-based Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) on December 10 and transported to Bengaluru on trailers. The officials said, "The sixth Yellow Line train is currently undergoing various tests and is likely to enter passenger service on December 22." Meanwhile, the TRSL is expected to dispatch the eighth train set by the end of this month.

The train set arrived at the Hebbagodi depot in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With a fleet of eight trains, the BMRCL officials said, "The Yellow Line is likely to achieve a peak-hour headway of around eight to ten minutes, which is expected to significantly improve commuter convenience, particularly during rush hours."

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRIFICATION WORK

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/TD/T/2025/29R, Date: 17.12.2025. Name of Work**: Electrification of Unwired pit lines/ sidings of Solapur Division. (Re-invitation). **Estimated cost**: Rs.1,53,83,701.79. **Bid Security**: Rs.2,26,900/-. **Completion Period**: 12 months. **Validity of offer**: 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website: 12.01.2026 at 15:00 hours.**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),
DE/Sur-70 Central Railway, Solapur.

खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY WORK

Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on Behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/SR.DMM/T.NO. 96255643, Date: 17.12.2025. Description**: Manufacture and Supply of Joggled fish plates for 60 kg Rails conforming to RDSO Drg No. T5849, joggled Fish Plates comprises of **(i)** Joggled Fish Plates with 4 holes to RDSO Drg. No. T-5849 -2 Nos., **(ii)** Bolts and nuts to Drg. No. T-11513-4 Nos., **(iii)** Single Coil Spring Washer to RDSO DRg. No. T-10773-4 Nos. and **(iv)** Special Washer (50X50mm) and 10 mm thick with 27 mm dia hole as per drawing - 8 Nos. Specification: Fish Plates should conform to IRS:T-1-2021 (Rev.01) (with latest alteration and revised specifications upto the date of tender closing). **Quantity**: 2584 Set. **Earnest Money (INR)**: Rs.267100/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in 14.01.2026 after 11:30** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr.DMM / SUR
DE/Sur-72 Central Railway, Solapur.

खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

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M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR
No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-2,3/4702/TND/2025-26/ 3529 Date: 18.12.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702 Major Works :- Total 6 Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.282.12 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are Six(6) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **18.12.2025.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **29.12.2025.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **26.12.2025.** Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/558/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26 MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur

Government of Karnataka
HAVERI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Devagiri-Yallapura, Haveri-581110.
(Autonomous Institution of Government of Karnataka)
ಹಾವೇರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
ದೇವಗಿರಿ–ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ, ಹಾವೇರಿ–581110.
Website : https://himshaveri.karnataka.gov.in E-mail : tenders.hims.dme@gmail.com

ಸಂ.: ಹಿಮ್ಸ್/ನಾನ್ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್/18/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17/12/2025

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Haveri Institute of Medical Science, Haveri invites Re-Tender from eligible tenderers for various man power Non Clinical service on outsource basis. The tenders shall submit tenders in two bid system procedures as per KTTp Act. The Tenders are required to submit two separate bids, one containing the Earnest Money Deposit and the details of their capability to undertake the tender which will be opened first and the second bid containing the price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered project. Tenderers can download tender documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal.

01	Tender Publish Date	17/12/2025
02	Tender Approximate Value	Rs. 107,00.00 Lakhs
03	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	24/12/2025
04	Last date to apply for tender through KPP Portal	Date : 31/12/2025 4:30 PM
05	Technical Bid Opening Date	Date : 01/01/2026 4:30 PM
06	Technical Bid Documents Verification Date	It will be intimated
07	Financial Bid Opening Date	It will be intimated
08	EMD Amount	Rs. 2,67,500.00
09	E-Procurement Portal Processing Fees	As per **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** rules
	Officer in Charge and Contact Details	Dean and Director, Haveri Institute of Medical Science, Haveri Tel.: 08375-200015, Mob.: 8660990320

Sd/- **Dean and Director**
Haveri Institute of Medical Sciences, Haveri

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State Cabinet clears project for processing construction waste

The project will come up under the PPP model at an estimated cost of ₹1,714.83 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday cleared the proposal to set up three units to process construction debris in the Greater Bengaluru Authority area.

The project to process construction waste would come up under the PPP model, in three packages with the estimated cost of ₹1,714.83 crore. The authority has estimated the generation of 2,250 tonnes of C&D waste per day. The authority will fix the tipping fee that waste generators have to pay to the company for collection and transportation.

The GBA will fix the tipping fee that waste generators have to pay to the company for collection and transportation. FILE PHOTO

Water unit

Besides that, the Cabinet gave administrative approval for ₹38.33 crore for the operation and maintenance of the water purifying unit with the capacity to handle 550 MLD of the Cauvery Water Supply Project phase-4, stage 2, for five years. Similarly, the Cabinet cleared the pump replacement at the cost of ₹49.30 crore in the Cauvery Water Supply project phase -1 and 2. The Cabinet is said to have given administrative approval for many projects concerning the North Karnataka.

The proposals cleared by the Cabinet include the revised estimate of ₹1,503 crore for the Karur Lift Irrigation project in Badami and Bilgi taluks of Bagalkot district. Among others, it also gave administrative approval for ₹990 crore for providing water from Narayanapura Right Bank canal to Pamana Kallur and other areas of Maski taluk in Raichur district. Another project with an estimated cost of ₹272 crore to fill up 19 tanks of Yalaburga and Kukanur taluks by lifting water from Krishna River.

Elevated corridor

The Cabinet gave administrative approval to the Public Works Department to take up the construction of an elevated corridor/grade separator connecting the National Highway - 48 to Dharmaveera Sambhaji Circle via Ashoka Circle, Sangolli Rayanna Circle, and Rani Chennamma Circle, at a cost of ₹275.53 crore. The 2.03-km-long elevated road is expected to ease traffic in the heart of the city.

Proposal

The Water Resources Department had proposed to take up the work to provide Krishna River water for parts of Raibag and Chikkodi taluks of Belagavi districts at a cost of ₹210 crore. The department has proposed to supply water from the river to the Raj Hira Left Distributary Canal (RHLD) and the Raibag distributary canal. The Cabinet has given its consent.

Further, the Cabinet approved the Sri Karisiddeshwara Lift Irrigation project proposed to lift Krishna River water from Raibag taluk and supply to the Chikkodi branch canal.

Nod for Bill

The Cabinet, reportedly, approved the Karnataka District Judicial Reforms Bill, 2025. The proposed Bill intends to allow the use of artificial intelligence to streamline the justice delivery system in the district judiciary.

The Law Department has proposed the law to enhance speed, accuracy and transparency in the judicial process. The law encourages use of AI in case filing and registration, case management, legal research assistance and document processing.

Issue deferred

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet failed to arrive at a consensus on implementing internal reservation among the Scheduled Castes in the promotion of civil servants and deferred the issue.

The issue was listed in the agenda of the meeting, but a couple of ministers, reportedly, raised objections and sought clarifications. Finally, the Cabinet decided to take up the issue later.

The Cabinet also considered a proposal to shift the Government Flying Training School at Jakkur in Bengaluru to Mysuru. However, it did not arrive at a decision.

State to seek rule revision for BPL categorisation

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government is considering revising the rules to include families in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category, Food Minister K.H. Muniyappa said here on Thursday.

Responding to questions by Rajesh Nayak Bantwal in the Legislative Assembly, he said that around 73% of the population of Karnataka had been declared BPL and was now getting the due benefits.

"The Union government, however, believes that going by the strength of our economy, only around 45% to 50% of the population should be considered BPL. It has introduced new guidelines for identifying BPL families. The Union government has, therefore, removed over 7.76 lakh families from the list of BPL families. BPL ration cards, called priority cards, have been turned into Above Poverty Line (APL) cards, now called non-priority cards. We have got several complaintsagainst this move. We are of the opinion that the Central norms need to be changed. We are asking officials to study the rules and find out ways to relax them or revise them,'' he said. As per rules, any family that earns over ₹1.2 lakh per year, or the gross turnover is ₹25 lakh per year, holding land of 7.5 acres or more, owning light motor vehicle or other vehicles, government or non-government employees who are taxpayers, were not considered BPL families.

K.H. Muniyappa

"But we find that even manual labourers who earn ₹500 per day, cross the limit fixed by the Centre. Some legislators have complained that some families who have taken loans for business or house construction are forced to pay taxes and that those who operate taxis or commercial vehicles have been barred from getting BPL cards," he said, adding that officials had been asked to review such cases and issue fresh BPL cards in 15 days. He said he would write to the Centre to revise the guidelines.

Don't overexploit Karnataka, Minister tells Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Describing Karnataka as a goose that lays the golden eggs, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Thursday asked the Centre not to kill it by overexploiting it.

He made the remark in the Legislative Assembly when Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok expressed concern that the State was on the borderline of breaching the norms prescribing that revenue deficit should be below 3%, as presently the State's revenue deficit stood around 2.95%.

Mr. Byre Gowda who piloted the Karnataka Appropriation (No. 3) Bill 2025, said the State's stand was to ensure that its loans and revenue deficits were below 3% as prescribed by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act. Launching a counter-attack on the BJP, the Minister said, "Around 20 Commissions that has given more funds to them."

Krishna Byre Gowda

He says the State's stand was to ensure that its loans and revenue deficits were below 3% as prescribed by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act

States have never followed the FRBM Management Act as they have indulged in indiscriminate borrowings unlike Karnataka. But it's ironical that Karnataka is being punished for its financial discipline and those States that did not stick to FRBM Act are being incentivsed by the Finance

He told the Centre that it could get more funds in terms of taxes only if the golden goose was not overexploited. The quantum of supplementary estimates of the State amounted to just 1.45% of the total budget size, he explained.

The Supplementary Estimates (Second Instalment) for 2025-26, aggregating to ₹ 6,279.87 crore, got the clearance from the House.

Mr. Byre Gowda said a sizeable part of this money would go to farmers. The need for seeking ₹ 1,015 crore had arisen due to the decision taken to provide an additional ₹8,500 per hectare as compensation towards crop losses in the kharif season, above that prescribed by SDRF, he said. Similarly, ₹300 crore was needed to pay an incentive of ₹50 per tonne for sugarcane farmers as they demanded an increase in FRP, he added.

BJP tries to raise issue of 'landgrab' by Minister in both Houses

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The BJP tried to raise the issue of alleged landgrab by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda in both the Legislative Assembly and Council on Thursday but without any success.

On Wednesday, Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy had claimed that the Minister had grabbed about 21 acres of land in Garudanapalya of Narasupura hobli in Kolar district. He alleged that, using his authority, the Minister had got the graveyard land registered in his name.

Ancestral property

The Minister had, however, rubbished the allegation and clarified that it was not a grant land, but ancestral property, which he had inherited from his grandfather through property division. He had released counter-documents as proof and said he was ready for any kind of inquiry. The Minister advised the opposition members to either approach a court or Lokayukta.

On Thursday, the issue figured in the Legislative Assembly with Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok raising it and seeking clarification from the Minister and permission to discuss the issue.

Mr. Gowda said, "As per norms, a seven-day notice has to be given to the member of the House to raise any personal issue related to him. But I am ready to give up this right and take up any discussion immediately on the charges." He said it was left to Speaker U. T. Khader's discretion. However, the Speaker told the House that he would allow the issue to be discussed sometime later as the House had a packed agenda.

In the Council, Mr. Narayanaswamy requested the chair to allow discussion on the issue. However Chairman Basavaraj Horatti denied permission saying that he could consider it only if a notice is served on the issue.

CAG recommends to State govt. to ensure Escoms reduce AT&C losses

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India which audited the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in Karnataka has recommended that the State government ensure that the Electricity Supply Companies (Escoms) reduce the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses as per the trajectory fixed by the Union Ministry of Power (MoP).

Subsidy

The CAG has also recommended ensuring timely release of subsidy for irrigation pumpsets as per metered consumption.

The CAG found that while the approved cost (including PMA charges of ₹6.87 crore) of the IPDS was ₹1,378.44 crore and the awarded cost was ₹1,721.19 crore., the Escoms incurred the actual expenditure of ₹ 1,489.33 crore (as of March 2023), i.e., Escoms incurred excess expenditure of ₹ 110.89 crore than the sanctioned cost in implementing the scheme, which included additional expenditure to the extent of ₹ 38.52 crore due to non-procurement of materials at Central Procurement Prices discovered by MoP.

It also pointed out that non-compliance of various requirements for securing additional grants resulted in loss of opportunity to receive additional grant of 15% of the project.

Better billing

At the same time, CAG acknowledged that the billing efficiency of Hescoms had generally improved during the scheme period contribution to reduction in billing losses.

The CAG found that while in August 2015, in-principle approval to DPRs of all five Escoms valued at ₹1,138.75 crore was granted and works were to be awarded within six months and completed within 24 months, Escoms took took 11 to 27 months to award works, leading to significant delays.

In the report it is mentioned that the Escoms awarded contracts in violation of KTPP Act and Rules by providing less time for submission of tenders, ranging from 15 days to 54 days against the stipulated minimum time of 60 days and by awarding works at high tender premiums exceeding the estimated cost by 5% to 34%.

CAG audit also recommended that the State government may ensure that Escoms may devise a suitable mechanism to issue tenders in time, to take up works without delay and to ensure completion of works in time to achieve the envisaged objectives.

Further Escoms may follow time frames as per KTPP Act and Rules to ensure adequate competition and to allow market discovery for most economical rates.

The Escoms may ensure that comprehensive feasibility surveys were conducted before project execution and may include conditions of standard bid documents in invitation to bids and ensure adherence to the same while executing works, the report said.

Child rights panel flags welfare of prison inmates' children

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Citing concerns over the welfare of children of inmates and undertrials in central prisons across the State, the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has directed the local Child Welfare Committee and the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) to collect details of inmates' families and submit a report within two weeks.

Shashidhar Kosambe, chairman of the commission, visited the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru on Thursday for inspection and held meetings with officials including child welfare committee members and prison officials.

10 prisons visited

"I have visited 10 central prisons in the State, including Parappana Agrahara in Bengaluru, Kalaburagi, Bellari, Vijayanagara, Vijayapura, Belagavi, Ramanagara, Chickballapur, and Bidar, where I spoke to the undertrial and convicted prisoners. They are worried about their children. Authorities in all the central prisons in the State should ensure that the children of the prisoners get education, health and rehabilitation assistance," he said.

Instruction

Officials have been instructed to collect data on the number of prisoners' children below 18 years of age, their health, education, and safety status and what different government departments can do for them.

Affected by HIV

According to him, 53 inmates of the Central Prison are infected with HIV. The officials were instructed to ensure that the children of the affected inmates receive ₹2,000 monthly to support their education and other financial needs.

During the inspection, it was found that the literacy programmes for the undertrial prisoners were inefficient. Following this, Mr. Kosambe instructed the officials to immediately replace the teachers who were negligent in their duties.

Shivakumar to look into 'diversion' of Bhima waters by Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who holds the Water Resources portfolio, told the Legislative Council here on Thursday that he will inquire into the issue of reported over utilisation of Bhima waters by the neighbouring State of Maharashtra. Replying to a question raised by member Talawar Sabanna under Rule 330 in the Council, Mr. Shivakumar said that what has been pointed out by the member is an issue of serious nature and that he will inquire into it and get a report on the said utilisation of more than allocated share of waters by Maharashtra.

Earlier, raising the issue, Mr. Sabanna said that while the allocated share of water in the Bhima under the Bachawat Commission is 95 tmcft for Maharashtra and 15 tmcft for Karnataka, the neighbouring State is utilizing close to 200 tmcft by diverting water to the Sina river through a tunnel.

Consequently, the farmers of Vijayapura, Yadgir and Kalaburagi districts are facing water scarcity, he said and urged the Minister to send a team to look into the issue.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who holds the Water Resources portfolio, replying to a question in the Legislative Council at Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Thursday. P.K. BADIGER

Committee to be set up

A committee comprising leaders from the Opposition benches will be constituted to study the plight of people displaced by various irrigation projects, including UKP (Upper Krishna Project), and make recommendations to the State government, according to Mr. Shivakumar.

To a question raised by members Hanumanth Nirani and P.H. Pujar under Rule 330 in the Legislative Council on rehabilitation for UKP-displaced people, Mr. Shivakumar said that he is committed to ensuring development of irrigation and at the same time, concerned about the people who part with their land for such projects.

The State government is committed to extending all the required assistance to the project-displaced people, he said.

A committee will be formed to study the plight of these people and recommend remedial measures, he said. Senior members from the Opposition benches will be nominated to the committee, he said.

Earlier, raising the issue, Hanumanth Nirani and P.H. Pujar pointed out that only 50% of targeted land has been irrigated under the UKP and no official has visited the 146 rehabilitation centres set up for the project-displaced people.

Toy story: A rapidly ageing set of artisans, with very few from the younger generation, is continuing the work of making their signature toys in Channapatna of Bengaluru South district and at Kinnal in Koppal district. RAVICHANDRAN N., KIRAN BAKALE

Who will make our traditional toys next?

Channapatna and Kinnal in Karnataka are known for the unique toys which generations of artisans have been making, and they enjoy Geographical Indicator tags. But the craft in these towns face an existential crisis as the younger people in toy-making families are choosing jobs in cities, reports **Rishita Khanna**

Demand and supply: With reduction in skilled labour, Kinnal toys face production challenges. KIRAN BAKALE

If there was ever a town defined by toys, it would be Channapatna. Those signature dolls, rocking horses, key chains, and spinning tops in glossy red and sunny yellow evoke this 'Land of Toys'.

Located over 60 km from Bengaluru, Channapatna in Bengaluru South district is where toys that are a staple in Karnataka's households come from. The town's identity was shaped by artisans who took up the craft generations ago. However, what sustained large sections of the town back then, is even today being carried forward largely by a rapidly ageing set of artisans, with very few from the younger generation continuing the work. They are moving to cities to pursue courses and jobs they see as more secure.

> The problem is the younger generation don't see how sustainable this work can be
>
> **KRISHNAPPA M.,** Toymaker

A life in toy making

"I started this work when I was in class 6. I am 58 now. I have two daughters, and they have pursued diplomas. It is not that daughters can't or don't learn the art. The problem is the younger generation don't see how sustainable this work can be," says Krishnappa M., brushing away wood dust settled on his shirt.

While working to the rhythm of songs on the radio, what the artisans are most careful about are their mobile phones. Wrapped tightly in plastic covers and placed on a ledge away from the machines, they are kept safe from dust and paint. The men themselves, however, work without masks, gloves or any other safety gear.

Work of ages: Channapatna's identity was shaped by artisans who took up the craft of making toys generations ago. AFP

"I have no formal education, and that is why I am sticking to this. Any design or drawing you give me on paper, I can turn into a toy with a finishing that nobody else can match," added the artisan, who earns about ₹650 per day.

"See this," he says, showing a clown he made as a Rolly Polly doll. "No matter how much you throw it down, it keeps coming back. This design was inspired by Dr. Rajkumar's song *Aadisi Nodu, Bilisi Nodu*. That song made me think of the movement, the balance, and how it could feel alive. But the younger generation... they don't have the creativity, and they don't want to tire themselves with the thinking process. Who will carry this forward?" he rues.

Learning the craft

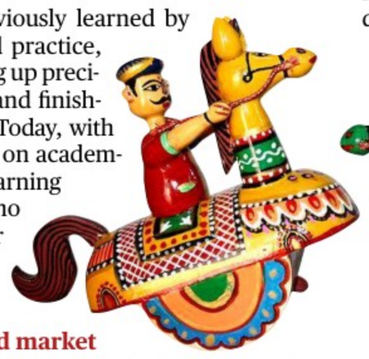
"We all learned the craft when we were children, because that's the age when you can really grasp the techniques, the precision in shaping, polishing, and finishing wood," says B. Venkatesh, who runs a manufacturing unit employing five people, including Krishnappa.

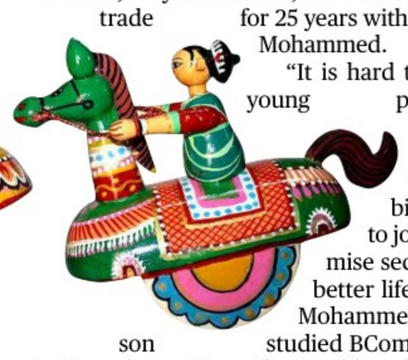
He adds that it is not that children now should not go to school. "But in areas like this, where craft has a legacy, schools could incorporate craft programmes or community initiatives to give children exposure. When they see that it is a viable career, and that skill has value, some might choose to continue it."

He adds that modern tools such as e-marketing and digital promotion could expand the reach of these crafts, making revival more feasible than ever if the support system were in place.

Venkatesh recalls that during Indira Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister, craft councils were established across the country to revive traditional arts and support artisans. "Those centres were more than classrooms. They taught skills, created jobs, and ensured that the craft would survive from one generation to the next. They were about sustaining livelihoods while keeping cultural practices alive. Without them, the continuity breaks."

Children previously learned by observation and practice, gradually picking up precision, patience, and finishing techniques. Today, with schools focused on academics and rote learning alone, there is no opportunity for early learning, he argues.





Middlemen and market

Even when artisans produce high-quality toys, market systems often prevent them from earning fairly. Venkatesh explains that a large portion of the profit never reaches the makers themselves. "A toy that costs the manufacturer ₹200 might sell for ₹700 in the market, but we end up getting just ₹200. Middlemen take the rest. Airport stalls or the ones at railway stations, exhibitions, even government-led sales channels, none of these benefits the artisan directly," he says.

He suggests a model that would both secure income for artisans and ensure quality products reach institutions. "For example, the Shishu Palana Kendras in Karnataka need thousands of toys every year for children. Why can't the government buy directly from the artisans?" he asks. These toys are made with vegetable dyes, safe for children, and crafted to a level of detail that mass-produced toys can never match. If each kendra were allocated a budget, even ₹10,000 per centre, the benefit would go straight to the maker, and the art would reach children consistently. Right now, tendering systems and intermediaries distort everything, he says.

Channapatna toys were among the first handicrafts to be showcased under the One Station One Product scheme, which was announced in the Union Budget for 2022-23. A stall was set up at KSR Bengaluru railway station, one of the good opportunities for people outside the town to see and buy these wooden creations. However, artisans say the initiative has done little to benefit them directly. Most sales have been tied to tenders, which only those who can afford the upfront costs can access. Many argue that instead of letting middlemen take the advantage, the government should work closely with them, minimise overheads, and ensure earnings reach the people who actually make the toys.

Moreover, while social media has brought some visibility and a partial revival of traditional toys within corporate circles, the shortage of skilled artisans remains a bottleneck. Many artists say they are often forced to reject orders because there aren't enough hands to make them.

Crafting solutions

For any revival plan to succeed, they argue, artisans must have a voice in designing solutions. "If the government really wants this craft to survive, they should form a dedicated team that includes at least two experienced artisans. Government officials cannot decide what will work on their own. The revival must come from people who live and breathe this craft," says Shanthamma Kumari, who has been making wooden whistles for 32 years, each topped with a unique face.

Competition from cheap, mass-produced toys from China has added another layer of pressure. "The production there is massive and the toys are bright and appealing. People often buy them because they are cheap and colourful. But the finishing, the quality, none of that matches what we do here," says Abdul Ali, who has been in the trade for 25 years with his brother Mohammed.

"It is hard to convince young people to stay here. They want to move to bigger cities, to jobs that promise security and a better lifestyle," says Mohammed, whose son studied BCom and works in Bengaluru. "Even if you add up his daily income, it's similar to what someone could earn here. But the allure of the city is stronger."

Beyond the craft

Ismail Pasha, 23, whose father and grandfather continue to make Channapatna toys, is now working with a major automobile manufacturing hub in Hosur. He says the decision was driven by uncertainty and the physically demanding nature of the craft.

"If my father falls sick and cannot work for a day, the income stops. In my job, that does not happen," he said, pointing to the security his current job offers – annual bonuses, paid leave and provident fund. "One can't escape from doing hard work anywhere. But here, there is no surety about growth or support from the government," he said.

Marketing, or the lack of it, also shapes perceptions. Go anywhere in Karnataka, and Mysore Silk is advertised everywhere, even though prices start at ₹20,000. Channapatna toys, by contrast, have no marketing or advertisement. This makes it hard for the younger generation to see that the craft can offer more than just labour-intensive work, artisans lament.

Financial barriers

Kouser Pasha, who has spent over four decades in the trade, remembers a time when artisans had some measure of institutional support.

"Earlier, there was insurance coverage of up to ₹1 lakh, and a few other forms of assistance. Today, nothing is there." He points out that beedi workers receive better protection and facilities. "For us, even getting a loan is a struggle. Most artisans come from economically weak backgrounds and have little formal education. When we approach banks or departments, they ask for documents and guarantees that are simply out of reach."

Venkatesh also adds that interest rates of around 11% make it difficult for small workshops to sustain or expand. He suggests that lowering rates to 4-5% and ensuring support reaches artisans directly could help individual artisans and strengthen the craft as a whole.

The consequences of these economic pressures are visible across the town. Pasha, who is the eldest among all artists, estimates that nearly 75% of the people in the community have left the craft. "I have two sons with degrees. They work in Bengaluru. My brother is still in toy making, but his daughters didn't take it up. In our neighbourhood. Many manufacturing units today have only machines and no people. Revival can happen but only if government actually steps in and include our suggestions," he said, pointing to the unit where work continues with fewer people.

Yet, demand for Channapatna toys persists. Pasha notes that whenever artisans travel to exhibitions outside Karnataka, the toys sell out. Here in Channapatna, the lack of skilled hands remains a constraint.

Challenges at Kinnal

The pressures facing Channapatna echo nearly 350 km away in Kinnal of Koppal district, a GI-tagged toy-making cluster in North Karnataka. Here, artisans grapple with a shortage of Polki wood, valued for its softness and ease of carving, and an acute lack of skilled hands, limiting production despite steady demand.

Access to raw materials has become a major limitation only recently. Polki wood allowed for finer and quicker carving, while alternatives like teak are harder and more time-consuming to work with. With stricter forest regulations, artisans now rely on intermediaries to source wood from nearby villages such as Gangavati. This has increased costs and complicated supply.

Even when wood is available, Santosh Chitragar, who returned to the craft after studying design and 2D animation in Bengaluru, says skilled hands are increasingly difficult to find. The craft demands patience, particularly during finishing and detailing. As fewer people are willing to invest the time required, artists often cannot take on orders despite steady demand.

Long-term courses

Santosh is sharply critical of government-run training programmes, which he says are far too short to be effective. Most courses last around 25 days. "You cannot learn this craft in that time. It takes at least six months to a year for a learner to even begin working independently, understand finishing, and develop consistency. Short-term programmes may introduce the idea of toy-making, but they fall well short of equipping trainees with the skills needed to produce finished pieces of quality or sustain themselves through the craft."

He also calls for formal recognition through diploma or certificate courses. "Treating toy-making as a skilled profession rather than an informal activity could help change how younger people view it. Such courses would not only provide sustained training over a year or more but also give learners a qualification that holds value beyond the workshop."

New markets

Even as the larger question of who will make these traditional toys next remains unanswered, artisans in both Channapatna and Kinnal are adapting to survive. Moving beyond traditional dolls and ritual objects, they are applying the same skills to home decor, corporate gifts, wedding and birthday hampers, and customised institutional orders. The shift, these artists say, has helped them reach new consumers and sustain demand, even as the hands that carry the craft forward continue to grow fewer.

High praise Actor Upendra; (below) a still from *Coolie*. K BHAGYA PRAKASH AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Dronacharya to my *Ekalavya*'

Upendra talks about working with Rajinikanth and his upcoming projects including *45* with Shivarajkumar and Raj B Shetty releasing on December 25

Muralidhara Khajane

Despite the success of *Andhra King Taluka* in Telugu and the buzz around his upcoming film *45* starring Shivarajkumar and Raj B Shetty, actor Upendra is still basking in the glory of *Coolie*, his joy at sharing the screen with superstar Rajinikanth unabated.

Coolie may have hit the screens in August, but Upendra who played a labour union leader, still relishes the shooting of the film during which he spent quality time with the thespian. The self-confessed Rajinikanth fan, spoke about his fascination with the star when *The Hindu* caught up with him at his Banashanakari office in Bengaluru.

Relieved that we had watched *Coolie*, Upendra went on to expound on Rajnikanth's stellar qualities.

"I never thought I would share the screen with Thalaiva; it was a godsend. Never once did he treat me as a co-star, but rather an old friend."

This would seem to be more than fanboy fascination. Upendra says he finds Rajinikanth, "inspiring spiritually, philosophically, and as an artist", going so far as to equate him to Dhronacharya and referring to himself as Ekalavya. He says, "Rajini Sir had previously expressed interest in working with me after watching my film *Super* and I didn't hesitate when the opportunity came my way."

Upendra says he enjoyed his scenes with Telugu superstar Nagarjuna and Bollywood icon Amir Khan, who were also in *Coolie*, adding, "Their presence brought a different gravitas to *Coolie;* they are established actors in their own right."

Donning a different hat

Upendra, who launched the Uttama Prajakiya Party in 2018, obviously did his homework before taking a step into politics. When asked about the frequency of Tamil stars entering politics, he cited Rajinikanth's withdrawal from the arena. "I think Rajinikanth might have understood what Albert Einstein had said once: 'Repeating the same thing again and again and expecting a different result is foolishness'. However, he did laud Dr Rajkumar and other celebrities such as Chiranjeevi, Pawan Kalyan and others who launched parties successfully.

Up next

With regard to his upcoming film *45* directed by Arjun Janya, Upendra treads cautiously.

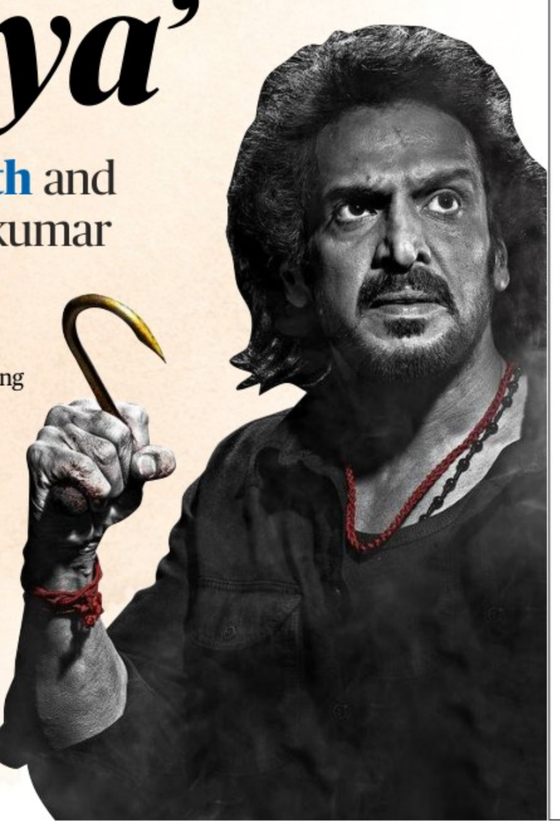
"All I can say is I am essaying an important role. I liked the storyline and my character, and offered my best. Besides that, Arjuna Janya is a friend and I wanted to support him in his debut venture."

"I adore Shivanna who is also in *45;* we enjoy a personal and professional relationship that goes back three decades. It is an honour to share the screen with him."

About his upcoming projects, the actor says, "Our production team is working on a few subjects for my next directorial venture. *Bhargava* and *Next Level* are two exciting projects I am involved in currently."

On the eternal conundrum of comparing acting and directing, he says, "You cannot draw a line between the two. I am comfortable acting in a film that I am directing as it gives me more freedom.

"However, direction is a far more difficult task compared to acting, as one has to take many issues into consideration, apart from the responsibility of entertaining the audience."



STEPOUT

Just jazz

The Indian Music Experience Museum (IME) will bring the year to a close with an evening of jazz featuring vocalist Radha Thomas and pianist Aman Mahajan. The duo will be performing some favourites from their albums *I Only Have Eyes For You* and *Bangalore Blues* along with other new songs on this occasion.

At IME, JP Nagar on December 20, from 6-8pm. Tickets, available at Urbanaut, are priced at ₹299.

Book talk

The Only City, an anthology of short stories about Mumbai edited by Anindita Ghose, will be launched in the city. As part of the launch event, writers Jeet Thayil, Dharini Bhaskar and Anindita Ghose, all of whom have contributed to the anthology, will discuss different aspects of the book and open the floor to interaction with readers.

At Champaca, Indiranagar on December 20, starting 7pm. Entry is free and open to all. RSVP at champaca.in to save a spot.

Art for all

Soulful Strokes, the sixth annual art exhibition of the Kalashrishti group of artists, is underway. The exhibition, curated by Bernari Ray, will feature works by artists such as Archana Shailesh, Haribabu, Chaitanya, Latha, Sanjay Kumar, Manoj Ajay Gurunatha, and Suparna Rajan, among others.

At Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road, till December 21 between 10am and 6pm. Entry free.

One for all

Bengaluru plays host to Comic Con 2025 this weekend

Now you see me Scenes from previous editions of Comic Con. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Comic Con is where generations come together, says Shefali Johnson, CEO, Comic Con India. "You can see parents and their children exploring their respective loves for pop culture; it could be Archie's or Chacha Chaudhuri for the grownups, while the youngsters pursue a Demon Slayer or a new IP in the anime world."

With Comic Con 2025 right around the corner, Shefali shares how no two editions of the event are ever the same. "We get different artistes every year and the lineup changes. As a result, the experiences brought about by our partners, are distinct too. In this way, we ensure visitors do not feel like they've been here before, while the vibe eternally stays the same."

Some of the highlights of this year's line up include international artistes such as Peter Ngyuen known for his work with DC and Marvel Comics; actor Chloe Hollings, the voice of *Overwatch*'s Widowmaker, and Robert Capron, the writer and actor who played Rowley in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* trilogy.

Homegrown talent will see over 20 top Indian creators, storytellers and illustrators sharing space over two days. This includes the likes of LiloRosh, Axis Williams, Urban Takes, Acid Toad and others, with performances by Kumar Varun, The Fluteboxers, Sahil Shah, Kevin Noel Sequeira and others. Needless to say, it took the team the better part of a year to curate their guest list.

Shefali says, "Though the offerings change every year in keeping with what is trending in pop culture, most of our partners have been with us ever since they first experimented with Comic Con."

"There will definitely be something to entertain every visitor to Comic Con; music, comedy shows as well as new books and comics that will be launched. It is an experience you enjoy with friends and family. I would say people come to create memories."

Bengaluru Comic Con 2025 will feature exclusive experiences at the Maruti Suzuki Arena Zone, Android Land and NODWIN Gaming Arena Zone, and more, apart from the expected cosplay showcases and immersive activities.

Bengaluru Comic Con 2025 will be held at the Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation, in Whitefield, on December 20 and 21. Tickets starting from ₹999 available on District. For schedule of events log on to comicconindia.com

Twines that bind

Though they have been operational since 2012, Greenkraft introduced a line of Christmas collectibles last year when they launched their e-commerce website. The firm which began marketing bamboo products, now also crafts items out of banana fibre.

Sangita Banerjee, senior lead merchandiser, says the basic structure of their products evolves from the composition of mats created from slivers of bamboo reed. "Our in-house designers work on the R&D for our festive collections and how to make them relatable for each season. We employ rural women to assemble our products – bamboo ones are from Karnataka and the banana fibre ones from Tamil Nadu. There aren't too many job opportunities in these regions for women, so for most of them, this is an additional source of income."

Details on greenkraft.co.in

'Tis the season to be eco-friendly

This Christmas, we look at a few sustainable decor options that are available in the city

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

There is no denying that while tinsel and thermocol look pretty, the planet could do with a little less of them all around. We look at a few home decor products that would also make for great gifting options this season.

Recycle, refresh

Meaning brave in Hindi, Abira founded by Priyanka Khandelwal, works with women in the urban slum areas of Bengaluru and Pune.

"All our Christmas decorations are made by them and for most, this is their first job. The fabrics we use are sourced from garment cutting units. Whenever any garment is manufactured, about 15% of fabric is wasted, and that is what we utilise across our collections."

Priyanka says since these scraps are donations from bigger brands, they are able to create more pieces in every style. "The wood we use is actually medium-density fiberboard (MDF) created out of compressed wood and sawdust, and are discards which we pick from interior designs firms."

Check out whebyabira.com for details

Waste not, wreath knot

Among the many cutesy items on Diya Innovations' site, is a bushy, green wreath that lends itself to pretty much any theme you might have this Christmas. Suman John, founder of Diya Innovations which gives opportunities to those with intellectual disabilities, says, "It began a few years ago, when over a lakh of pamphlets left over after a rally were dumped at our door step; my head of production designed a wreath using these bits of paper."

"Though it might seem monotonous, for those with autism or intellectual disability, repetitive motion is soothing and gives them a sense of purpose."

This year, Diya has introduced cloth ornaments that double as room fresheners.

Check out @diyainnovations2013 on Instagram

Little lights

One Christmas when Tahmina Yacoob found herself with time on her hands, she cut up and folded some Auroville paper into a kitschy lampshade of sorts. "Everyone who visited wanted something similar. That was how I started making these by the end of 2016," says Tahmina.

The original design remains the same, though she now alternates colourful handmade paper with plain ones. She sources these from a local paper-cutter, using remains of wedding invites and office stationery. Three years ago, Tahmina began employing a group of women from Whitefield who wanted to augment their income.

@handarttreasures on Instagram features Tahmina's Christmas collection

ORION
MALL AT BRIGADE GATEWAY

An Immersive X'mas Experience

MAGICAL IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE	CHRISTMAS DECOR	SANTA'S MEET & GREET	CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT
6th Dec to 4th Jan	6th Dec to 4th Jan	13th to 25th Dec	13th to 25th Dec

RECENTLY OPENED

UNIQLO | LEGO | COYU | GANT | VICTORIA'S SECRET | BOSE

CULINARY EXPERIENCES

FOO | TOSCANO | BOMBAY BRASSERIE ALL DAY BAR & EATERY | BURMA BURMA | YOU MEE SUSHI DIMSUM RAMEN ROBATA | Nando's

PUNJAB GRILL GOURMET FINE DINING | Geist BREWING -TAPROOM- | chili's | PIZZA EXPRESS | CINNABON | MAGNOLIA BAKERY NEW YORK CITY

ALL TIME FAVOURITES

A|X ARMANI EXCHANGE | BIRKENSTOCK GERMAN TRADITION SINCE 1774 | NICOBAR | UNDER ARMOUR | Calvin Klein | LACOSTE | TOMMY HILFIGER

SWAROVSKI | MANGO | AR | FOREVER NEW | CHARLES & KEITH | GUESS | STEVE MADDEN

Superdry® | SEPHORA | MAC | CARATLANE A Tanishq Partnership | AUKERA GROWN DIAMOND JEWELLERY | Label RITU KUMAR | Manyavar

ALDO | SKECHERS | adidas | NIKE | PUMA | imagine | Bath&BodyWorks

A BG-BGE

Resolutions passed demanding Centre act to alleviate backwardness plaguing NK

These are aimed at bringing pressure on the Centre to fund long-pending projects in the North Karnataka region

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

In a bid to bring pressure on the Centre to fund long-pending projects in North Karnataka region, the Congress government moved five resolutions, which were adopted by the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

Establish AIIMS

Pointing out the long-pending demand of people in Raichur seeking establishment of All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the resolution, citing earlier communications by the Chief Minister, urged the Centre to establish AIIMS in Raichur immediately.

In another resolution, Karnataka has urged the Centre to shift at least 25 of the 73 Centrally-administered and important research institutions now located in regions around Bengaluru and Mysuru to North Karnataka and Kalyana Karnataka regions in phases to ensure balanced development.

Law Minister H.K. Patil speaking in the Legislative Council on Thursday. P.K. BADIGER

The resolutions were moved by the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil.

KK, ethanol quota

Another resolution adopted urged the Centre to release ₹5,000 crore as matching grant to Kalyana Karnataka region on the lines of the Vidharba development model, as it is one of backward regions in the State.

The State government, which recently came under pressure from sugarcane growers over the price for cane, also moved a resolution urging the Centre to allocate ethanol production as per the ethanol producing capacity in the State and protect the interests of farmers. The allocation should be on the lines of those given to Gujarat, Haryana and Bihar, it said.

In the irrigation sector, two resolutions on Upper Krishna Project and Mahadayi project were adopted. They urged the Centre to declare to Upper Krishna Project -3 as a national project and release funds besides notifying the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal -II award in the gazette that will allow utilisation of 173 tmcft of water allocated by the tribunal.

Kalasa-Banduri project

The legislature also adopted a resolution urging the Centre to provide forest and environmental clearance to Kalasa-Banduri canal project to utilise 3.9 tmcft of water for drinking water purpose as per the Mahadayi tribunal award. Though there is no court stay, the legally bound project is being obstructed, and the Centre has not given permission, the resolution said.

> We are not opposed to any of the resolutions. But have you shifted any departments to Suvarna Soudha, which is now empty? What have you done before urging Centre to shift its institutions?
>
> **R. ASHOK,**
> Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly

Taking exception to the choice of words as "discrimination by the Centre," Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok said, "We are not opposed to any of the resolutions. But have you shifted any departments to Suvarna Soudha, which is now empty? What have you done before urging Centre to shift its institutions?"

Reservation under Schedule IX

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly unanimously resolved to urge the Centre to include reservation in Karnataka provided to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes that has exceeded 50% under Schedule IX of the Constitution.

The provisions of The Karnataka Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (Reservation of Appointment), Act, 1990, and The Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and Appointments of Posts and Services under the State) Act, 2022, rules and regulations that have been formed should be inserted in Schedule IX, said the resolution. Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said, "It is imperative to protect social justice."

Assembly nod for hate speech Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Legislative Assembly, on Thursday, passed the Bill on preventing hate speech and hate crimes, while members of the Opposition were on a protest over a Minister's remark on members from coastal Karnataka.

The Assembly took up the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill for discussion after Home Minister G. Parameshwara introduced it and briefed the members about its features.

Even as Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok was sharing his comments opposing the Bill, Minister for Urban Development B.S. Suresh (Byrathi) intervened to question why he [Mr. Ashok] was against the Bill. A section of BJP members, including Vedavyasa Kamath, 'Cement' Manju, objected to Mr. Suresh's comments. In reaction, Mr. Suresh made a remark on BJP MLAs representing the coastal region.

The Opposition members objected to the comment and wanted him to apologise. Though Speaker U.T. Khader announced that he would remove the Minister's remark from the records, BJP members got into the Well of the House to stage a protest.

Dr. Parameshwara sought the support of the House for the Bill, while the Opposition was staging a protest. Members of the BJP were in for a surprise as the Bill was passed, without they being able to join the discussion. The Speaker adjourned the House for lunch, declaring that the Bill had been passed.

Demand for scrutiny

The BJP members demanded that the Bill which was passed when they were staging a protest be referred to a House committee for scrutiny.

Mr. Ashok stated that members of his party were prepared to speak on the Bill; however, they missed the chance as it was passed in a hurry. "There was no need to curtail the opportunity to discuss," he said.

Minister for Law H.K. Patil maintained that the Bill had been passed and there was no chance to discuss it again.

The Speaker also turned down the BJP's demand for referring the Bill to a House committee. Protesting against the Speaker's ruling, the BJP members walked out.

Pak slogans: 12 cases booked in 30 months

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

In the last two-and-a-half years, 12 cases, including six *suo motu*, were filed against those who had raised "Pakistan zindabad" slogans in Karnataka, Home Minister G. Parameshwara informed the Legislative Council on Thursday.

Replying to C.T. Ravi's question, he said that a total of 61,299 *suo motu* cases had been filed in the last two-and-a-half years pertaining to various incidents and of them chargesheets had been filed in 57,646 cases.

The Home Minister said that 12 persons were arrested in the 'Pakistan zindabad' sloganeering cases and of these chargesheets had been filed in five cases.

Bill adopted in Assembly to impose punishment for social boycott

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Legislative Assembly on Thursday adopted the Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill 2025 that seeks to prevent the evil practices of imposing social boycott, social discrimination and social disabilities at various levels by caste or community panchayats or by its members.

Any person who imposes or causes to impose or practises any social boycott on any member of his community, will on conviction, be punished with imprisonment, which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to ₹1 lakh, or with both, according to the provisions of the Bill.

The Bill, which was piloted by Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, also seeks to appoint a social boycott prohibition officer.

The House also adopted the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to replace an Ordinance.

The Bill seeks to include the term "mental health establishment" within the definition of "private medical establishment" and nominate one member from the Indian Medical Association and one member representing the Association of Registered Medical Establishments or Ayush Medical Practitioners as member of Registration and Grievances Redressal Authority.

Assembly passes internal reservation Bill amid debate on Alemari and EWS quota

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Amid demand to increase the reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) to accommodate the interests of 59 Alemari (nomadic) communities, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025, that provides legislation cover to internal reservation in 17 % reservation for 101 Scheduled Castes.

The government was under pressure from the Dalit Left groups to legislate the internal reservation matrix.

Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, who moved the Bill, said, "Internal reservation was a promise made during the 2023 Assembly elections and we have kept it."

> In fact, we were the first to seek 17% for SCs and 7% for STs as per their population. I am someone who would seek 75% reservation
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,**
> Chief Minister

Legislative cover

The Bill seeks to provide legislative cover to the GO that apportioned 17% reservation. Of this, 6% reservation has been provided to 16 castes in Category A (Dalit Left), 6% to 19 castes in Category B (Dalit Right) and 5% to 63 castes, including 59 Alemari castes in Category C (Lambani, Korama, Koracha and Bhovi).

During the discussion on the Bill, Deputy Leader of Opposition Arvind Bellad said that Alemari communities could not compete with other castes and inequality would continue. The Chief Minister's Economic Adviser Basavaraj Rayaraddi suggested that the State could explore possibility of increasing the total reservation for SCs to 18% to include 1% reservation to Alemari communities.

BJP attacks CM

Earlier, when Mr. Bellad pointed out that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had once said that 17% reservation for SCs had not received legal sanction, Mr. Siddaramaiah took exception to it.

"I have not said anything like that anywhere. In fact, we were the first to seek 17% for SCs and 7% for STs as per their population. I am someone who would seek 75% reservation. The Centre has brought 10% reservation to EWS. Where is the provision for it in the Constitution?" the Chief Minister asked.

A little later, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok brought Assembly records where the Chief Minister had suggested that the then Bill had to be inserted in IX schedule without which it would exceed the 50% cap on reservation imposed by Supreme Court. This led to another round of exchanges.

Meanwhile, expelled BJP member Basannagouda R. Patil Yatnal, took objection to Chief Minister's statement on EWS.

"The Supreme Court has also upheld it," he said, adding reservation was needed for other communities where there were poor people.

The Chief Minister, who initially disagreed with Mr. Yatnal, later admitted that the Constitution was amended in 2019 to provide for EWS reservation.

New crest gates for Tungabhadra Dam by June, says Deputy CM

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

After the water level recedes to 1,613 ft in the Tungabhadra reservoir by December-end, the installation of new crest gates would be taken up and would be completed by June 2026, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar informed the Karnataka Legislative Council on Thursday.

Replying to a question by Basanagouda Badarli, he said that design and drawings of the crest gates had been verified by the Chief Engineer of Central Design Organisation, Vijayawada, and certified by Director, Gates Design (NW&S) of Directorate of CWC, New Delhi.

Subsequently the installation work of gate no. 19 worth ₹1.66 cr and work worth of ₹ 34.48 crore pertaining to changing of 32 gates had been entrusted to M/s Hardware Tolls and Machinery Project Ltd. Ahmedabad, Mr. Shivakumar said.

A file photo of the Tungabhadra Dam. The installation of new crest gates would be taken up after December-end.

"At present out of gate no. 19 and remaining 32 crest gates, the fabrication of 14 crest gates has been completed, the dismantling process has begun from December 12. It has been planned to begin installation of the crest gates after the water level in the reservoir recedes to 1,613 ft by December-end and complete the work by June 2026," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that while Karnataka had released ₹10 crore for the work, Andhra Pradesh had released ₹20 crore and steps would be taken to release the remaining amount for the work.

Govt. to recruit more bilingual teachers

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government would appoint over 11,000 schoolteachers to reduce long pending vacancies in the Department of Education, Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education and Literacy, said on Thursday.

Responding to queries by members Harish Poonja and Sharanu Salagar in the Assembly, he said that the process of recruitment would begin soon.

He said the government was not opposed the idea of having English teachers in government schools.

"We have already begun hiring bilingual teachers, who can teach English and other subjects. We will continue doing this and see that all schools, including Kannada medium and other medium schools, have teachers who teach English as a subject," he said.

Madhu Bangarappa

To a question on teachers being assigned non-academic duties like census and election-related work, the Minister said he was not personally inclined to it, but there was no alternative.

"We are bound by several directives of the Union government that ask us to depute teachers for such duties. It is also due to the general realisation that such a large number of employees that are so skilled and credible are found only in the Education Department," he said.

Govt. exploring annual contracts to ensure price stability of eggs

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government was exploring several options like annual contracts to see that the price of eggs supplied to students remained stable throughout the year, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said here on Thursday.

He was responding to a question by Harish Poonja in the Legislative Assembly, who said that government school teachers in charge of midday meals were forced to contribute some money whenever the prices of eggs rose.

"We are aware of the problems faced by teachers. As of now, the government is paying for procurement of eggs two days a week. The Azim Premji Foundation is paying for eggs bought on four other days of the week. We are releasing fixed amounts of money to schools for egg purchase. But then, we cannot increase our rates only for two days. We are trying to find a solution to the problem," he said.

Speaker U.T. Khader said the government had to find a long-term solution, as the price of eggs kept fluctuating. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Speaker U.T. Khader intervened by saying that the government had to find a long-term solution to the problem, as the price of eggs kept fluctuating. The Minister said the government was considering entering into annual contracts to ensure price stability.

V. Sunil Kumar wanted to know if the government was sure that consuming eggs was safe for children, in the wake of news reports that eggs could contain carcinogenic materials.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said studies had shown that eating eggs was safe and nutritious, and that the news reports had referred only to one brand of eggs that allegedly contained some carcinogenic elements.

Punished by BRS for speaking on 'vested interests', says Kavitha

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Kalvakuntla Kavitha

Former Lok Sabha MP K. Kavitha is all set to contest the next Assembly polls in Telangana due in 2028.

Currently, she on a yatra across all 33 districts of the State, under the aegis of a non-political organisation, Telangana Jagruti, founded by her during the movement for a separate State. She told *The Hindu,* "I do want to contest the next Assembly polls, the rest [party name, nature] of it is all technicality."

She said that she had no contact with family members, including her father, former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao, since her suspension.

"Neither have I reached out, nor has anyone reached out to me," she said, adding that she had been punished for "speaking the truth" about the "vested interests" that she said led to Mr. Rao's name appearing in a CBI case related to graft.

"Why is KCR's name in CBI today? It is because of a few people with vested interests. I know my father, he's fundamentally not the kind of person who would overlook such mistakes," she said.

"I pointed out some of these mistakes, a reason perhaps why one of my cousins was not reappointed as a Minister in the second term of our government. So, he [KCR] did try to control them, but the mishaps are huge and somebody needs to be held accountable. That is what I was flagging," the former MP said.

Focus of new outfit

As for the political programme for her new outfit, she said that while her father's government was good at welfare measures like the Raithu Bharose and others, people's basic needs were not met, which would be her focus: "drinking water, roads, employment."

"Don't get me wrong. The BRS government has done some good things. But there is a very thin line between welfare and development. Step out of Hyderabad and the disparity is great," she said.

"KCR has done a lot of good things, which was a kind of a relief to people. That is why a second time also the government came with a huge number of seats. But what happened after? People slowly started realising, we are not being represented or empowered. My main agenda is to get to social justice and equity, or at least set the course for it. We could have done things differently, but again, we resorted to being a regular political party," she said.

Arlekar called Pinarayi over V-C appointments: A-G to SC

This broke the deadlock between the Governor and Kerala CM over V-C appointments in two universities, Venkataramani tells apex court; we hope they keep talking, Justice Pardiwala says

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Chancellor had a meeting with the Chief Minister and resolved the issue, the Attorney General told the Bench. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

The Supreme Court was informed by Attorney General R. Venkataramani on Thursday that Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar reached out to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to successfully break the deadlock over the appointments of Vice-Chancellors in the State-run A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University and the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology.

"We hope they keep talking and arrive at an understanding in matters, keeping in mind the larger interests of the country," Justice J.B. Pardiwala said.

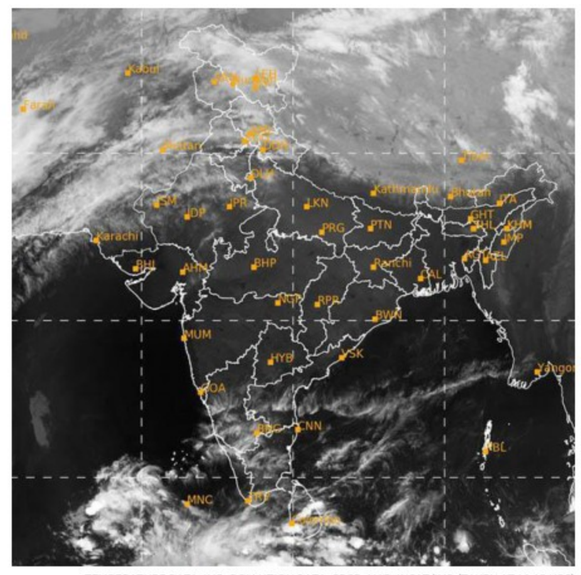
Justice K.V. Viswanathan, also on the Bench, said the "sailing should be smooth and waters should not be choppy" between the Governors and the elected governments in the States. The Bench termed the prolonged stand-off between the Governor, who is also Chancellor of the two universities, and the Kerala government a "saga" in which the ultimate stakeholders, the students, suffer. The Kerala government, represented by senior advocate Jaideep Gupta and advocate C.K. Sasi, said the apex court's intervention was instrumental in breaking the ice.

Justice Pardiwala's Bench had stepped in to constitute search committees under the chairmanship of a former apex court judge, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, to shortlist suitable names for the Vice-Chancellorships.

"The Chancellor told me that he himself should call the Chief Minister. He called. They had a meeting. That is how the issue got resolved," Mr. Venkataramani briefed the Bench.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Cold day likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh. Dense/very dense fog likely at few/isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.3	14.2	Kozhikode	—	33.0	23.8
Ahmedabad	—	30.3	15.4	Kurnool	—	31.6	15.5
Aizawl	—	23.5	10.4	Lucknow	—	19.5	11.6
Allahabad	—	15.0	10.6	Madurai	—	31.0	18.8
Bengaluru	—	28.2	15.6	Mangaluru	—	32.2	21.4
Bhopal	—	27.0	5.4	Mumbai	—	34.1	17.4
Bhubaneswar	—	27.2	13.9	Mysuru	—	29.0	15.4
Chandigarh	—	21.9	9.9	New Delhi	—	20.1	9.0
Chennai	—	29.1	22.2	Patna	—	16.9	14.0
Coimbatore	—	30.0	19.0	Port Blair	—	30.5	25.7
Dehradun	—	24.5	9.5	Puducherry	—	28.5	20.6
Gangtok	—	19.4	8.6	Pune	—	32.0	14.4
Goa	—	32.7	20.8	Raipur	—	28.5	11.8
Guwahati	—	27.4	11.9	Ranchi	—	23.0	9.1
Hubballi	—	30.0	13.0	Shillong	—	19.4	8.3
Hyderabad	—	30.4	11.7	Shimla	—	18.8	10.2
Imphal	—	25.0	6.2	Srinagar	—	10.6	0.2
Jaipur	—	28.8	11.1	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.1	22.6
Kochi	—	31.6	24.6	Tiruchi	—	29.7	20.0
Kohima	—	18.2	7.0	Vijayawada	—	29.1	18.8
Kolkata	—	27.4	16.5	Visakhapatnam	—	28.3	18.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.56	..88	.45	...198	...160	
Bengaluru	...4	..22	.61	...134	...164	
Chennai	...8	..22	.36	...155	...121	
Delhi	.29	..72	108	...444	...426	
Hyderabad	.15	..20	.58	...134	...131	
Kolkata	...5	..21	.24	...290	...165	
Lucknow	...7	..41	.48	...273	...173	
Mumbai	.23	123	.12	...137	...148	
Pune	.19	..98	.87	...282	...243	
Visakhapatnam	.45	141	.20	...325	...273	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 397 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Webinar on career pathways for students to be held on Dec. 21

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A webinar on 'Career Compass: Navigating Your Next Step' will be organised at 4 p.m. on December 21 by SASTRA Deemed to be University, Thanjavur and *The Hindu Education Plus*.

The webinar will offer information on career pathways for students across disciplines, with a focus on real-world readiness, innovation, informed decision-making, and adaptability. The panel will include S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Vice-Chancellor and TATA Sons Professor, SASTRA University; Sruthi Kannan, head of strategy and innovation, NatWest Group India; Anirudh Krishnan, advocate and founder-partner, AK Law Chambers; and Sumanth Raman, healthcare professional and founder, Algorithm Health. Journalist Soma Basu will moderate the session. Registrations can be done through newsth.live/THSASCE

Special drive to enrol new voters after December 23

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll ending on Thursday in Kerala, election officials are planning a drive to enrol new voters – those who have turned 18 and others who have not yet enrolled – once the draft SIR roll gets published on December 23.

Five babies rescued from trafficking ring in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Vijayawada Police busted a child trafficking racket in Andhra Pradesh and arrested 10 people in connection with the case. The police also rescued five children from the gang and seized ₹3.3 lakh cash from the accused.

The gang allegedly trafficked the children from Delhi and Mumbai by paying ₹1 lakh and above for each.

They had plans to sell the babies for ₹5 lakh each, Commissioner of Police S.V. Rajasekhar Babu told the media here on Thursday.

Picture in contrast

Fragile coexistence: Egrets find a temporary home in farmlands of Kuttur in Thrissur, Kerala, on Thursday as multi-storey buildings rise in the background. K.K. MUSTAFAH

Actor assault case: convict booked by cyber police for revealing survivor's identity

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Thrissur Cyber Police in Kerala have registered a case against Martin Antony, the second accused and now a convict in the actor rape case, on the charge of posting a video on social media revealing the name of the survivor.

Martin Antony

Survivor petitions CM

The video, believed to have been shot when he was out on bail, was shared on his Facebook page and began circulating widely on social media after the Ernakulam Principal Sessions Court convicted the first six accused in the case earlier this month.

The video not only mentions the survivor's name but also levels serious allegations against the investigation team that probed the case.

As the clip went viral, the survivor reportedly petitioned the Chief Minister, demanding action against those circulating it as it violated her privacy. Following the complaint, the Thrissur Cyber Police registered the case. Martin is currently serving his sentence in the Viyyur Central Jail in Thrissur.

Those found to have shared the video may also be arraigned as accused.

The police have reportedly identified nearly 30 social media accounts linked to the circulation of the video. The accused may face charges including those under the IT Act.

Stalin writes to Modi flagging key concerns over VB-G RAM G Bill

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, recording the Tamil Nadu government's objection to the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, 2025.

Mr. Stalin also listed the key concerns of the State government over the Bill that seeks to repeal and replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA).

The MGNREGA had been a cornerstone of rural livelihood security in India, providing a rights-based, demand-driven guarantee of employment to millions of rural households, he said, and pointed out that in Tamil Nadu, the scheme was being implemented effectively since 2006, generating, on an average, 30 crore person-days of employment annually, and disbursing wages of approximately ₹12,000 crore per year.

"From 2021-22 to 2024-25, we provided an average of 30 crore person-days and, in 2023-24 alone, 40.87 crore person-days were generated, with wages amounting to ₹13,400 crore paid to workers," he said, adding, "This has been crucial for rural poor, especially economically weaker sections, including SC/ST communities, in a State with longer non-rainy periods, lack of perennial rivers for irrigation, and high dependency on such wage employment."

While the proposed Bill increases the guaranteed employment to 125 days per year - a welcome step that could benefit rural workers - the other provisions fundamentally undermine the scheme's core principles, impose a severe financial burden on States, and erode federalism, Mr. Stalin said.

The shift from demand-driven to supply-driven allocation was one of the concerns flagged by the Chief Minister.

The proposed legislation will jeopardise the livelihoods of crores of rural poor, particularly in performing States like Tamil Nadu, and strain inter-governmental relations, he said urging the Centre not to implement the Bill.

Court stays proceedings on ED notice to Pinarayi

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday stayed for three months all proceedings on the show-cause notice the ED had issued to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, former Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac, and CEO of Kerala Infrastructure Invesment Fund Board K.M. Abraham on the usage of funds mobilised by the board through masala bonds for infrastructure projects.

The stay order came on a joint petition they had filed challenging the show-cause notice issued a month ago over the masala bonds issue.

Kerala cine tourism to reunite *Bombay* crew at Bekal Fort for anniversary bash

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Bekal Fort near Kasaragod in Kerala. K.K. MUSTAFAH

It is not solely the exceptional performances, compelling narratives, and striking cinematography that elevate a film to brilliance. Often, a perfect location, carefully chosen by the crew, plays a crucial role in transforming it into something truly memorable.

This view is echoed by the crew of the iconic movie *Bombay,* shot by Mani Ratnam and starring Arvind Swami and Manisha Koirala, as they come together at Bekal Fort in Kasaragod on December 20 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1995-released film.

For instance, it's hard for movie buffs to forget the sight of the lead character in the movie leaping across cliffs beside a turbulent sea beneath a brooding sky at Bekal Fort.

If the song 'Uyire' from the movie still echoes in one's memory, credit belongs not only to composer A.R. Rahman and his soundtrack – a score of conscience that stirred a nation, but also to its stunning setting that elevated the emotional impact of the movie.

The crew, including Manisha Koirala, Mani Ratnam and cinematographer Rajiv Menon, gets ready for an anniversary bash on Bekal Beach and the fort on Saturday. This is at the invitation of Kerala Tourism as part of promoting cinema tourism in Kerala, a project that envisages promoting the tourist places which have become popular due to their appearance in films.

Through this initiative, Kerala Tourism also plans to draw the attention of filmmakers in India and abroad to the picturesque locations in Kerala, along with popularising such destinations among the tourists visiting the State, said the officer.

As part of the cine tourism promotion programme, the crew will take a stroll through the beach. A visit to Bekal Fort is also scheduled on the same day, said Shijin P., managing director (MD) of the Bekal Resorts Development Corporation (BRDC).

Temporary relief

The depreciation of the rupee is helping bring down trade deficit

India's remarkable merchandise trade performance in November should come as some relief for the government, but should not be the basis for any complacency. India's merchandise exports, hit by the stiff headwind of 50% tariffs by the United States, the biggest export destination, unexpectedly grew 19.4% to $38.1 billion in November 2025. This is the highest it has been in any November in the last 10 years. Also, India's exports to the U.S. grew 22.6% to $6.98 billion in November 2025 as compared to November 2024. This was also 10.7% higher than in October 2024. This is all certainly welcome news, but it hides an element of deeper distress that will make itself apparent in the months ahead. While exports to the U.S. recovered in November, exporters say that this is because they are absorbing the hit of the higher tariffs, hoping that they will be short-lived. The other option, of losing customers and trying to win them back later after moderation of tariffs, is seen to be harder, at least for now. However, it might soon be the only option. Indian exporters to the U.S., a large chunk of which are micro, small, and medium enterprises in labour-intensive sectors, cannot continue absorbing the tariff impact for too long. The depreciating rupee is helping offset some of the impact, but India's tariff differential with competing countries is too big to overcome. It also takes some time for supply chains to reroute. Reports are already coming in that exporters are seeing a significant drop in orders for January.

The trade deficit also shrank because India's merchandise imports fell 1.9% to $62.7 billion in November 2025. Reducing imports is a tricky topic for India. While it is preferable to reduce import dependence in the medium term, India's domestic capabilities are not yet robust enough to shoulder the load. Falling merchandise imports, therefore, suggest slackening demand. Coming so soon after the Goods and Services Tax rate reductions, this should be monitored carefully by the government. The broad outlines of the government's Export Promotion Mission show that the government is thinking about how to alleviate the financial stress being faced by exporters. However, the detailed schemes have not been notified yet. These must be expedited. The government could also perhaps adapt some of its more successful COVID-era relief measures as well. For example, a credit guarantee scheme for exporters will do them more good than the planned moratorium on loan repayments will. Of course, these troubles will go away once the tariffs issue is resolved, which the government is saying will happen "very soon". But the decision on this lies with the mercurial U.S. President Donald Trump. As such, the most prudent way forward is to hope for the best but continue preparing for the worst.

A gamble

Uncapped Indians competed with big names from abroad for IPL money

At the recent Indian Premier League's (IPL) auction, classified as 'mini', there was big money on offer as always. With most squads having their nucleus in place, the mini auction at Abu Dhabi on Tuesday was all about picking 77 players from a registered pool of 369. Australian all-rounder Cameron Green was the most expensive buy at ₹25.20 crore with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) offering the winning bid. Green also became the costliest overseas star in IPL history, going past fellow Aussie Mitchell Starc's ₹24.75 crore deal, again with KKR, in 2024. Having plied his wares previously for Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Green was much in demand for his all-round skills of brisk pace and big hits. The variance between brand valuation and sporting unpredictability was driven home the very next day when Green was dismissed for a duck in the current Ashes Test at Adelaide. That the IPL auction is a ruthless place devoid of sentiments was also driven home when stars such as New Zealander Devon Conway and England's Jonny Bairstow found no takers. Utility in T20s, current form and fitness, and the individual as a marketable brand, have always influenced these choices since 2008 when the league was launched. In 2011, Brian Lara was unsold and never played the league.

The auction also helped many uncapped players, yet to turn up for India, laugh all the way to the bank. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) led the charge and bagged Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma at ₹14.20 crore each. Veer, the Uttar Pradesh all-rounder bowling left-arm spin, and Kartik, the Rajasthan wicket keeper, are 20 and 19 years old, respectively. They are a pointer to CSK's quest for fresh legs while veteran M.S. Dhoni remains the pivot and Ruturaj Gaikwad leads the unit. Kashmir's Auqib Nabi was another uncapped player, who went for ₹8.40 crore to Delhi Capitals. The speedster caught the eye when former India seamer Irfan Pathan backed him, and Auqib has been consistent in the domestic circuit. Besides the overseas icons and local players, a few comeback stories emerged as Sarfaraz Khan got a buyer in CSK at ₹75 lakh. The Mumbaikar, who has been dropped from the Indian squad after playing six Tests, gets a chance to reiterate his credentials. The auction went on with clockwork precision, and the BCCI would do well to show the same intelligence in scheduling international fixtures. The latest T20I jousts involving South Africa, being staged at venues affected by winter could have been avoided, while the IPL marches on as a sporting behemoth.

Cutting off a rural lifeline and the Directive Principles

Brinda Karat

is a senior leader of the CPI(M)

The central government has, using its majority in the Lok Sabha, pushed through a Bill to replace the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The proposed draft – an outright "*adhikar chori* (rights theft") Bill – seeks to change the very nature of MGNREGA, the present Act. While the Bill is a direct assault on the rights of the rural working poor, it should be seen in the framework of an attack on the Constitution of India. This is why it must go to the Standing Committee of Parliament.

Article 41 of the Constitution states: "The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work...." In the Constituent Assembly, there was a strong difference of opinion between those who were influenced by socialist ideals who wanted the right to work included as a fundamental right, and the strong capitalist lobby who opposed it. Ultimately, it was included in the Directive Principles of the Constitution. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had described this as a " novel feature", asserting that though these Directive Principles were not justiciable, they were to be considered as "instruments of instruction" for lawmakers and as "essential for economic democracy". Pro-socialist member K.T. Shah had then described this as "pious wishes". Shah's words resonate through these years of capitalist "development" in the lived experience of the unemployed and the denial of work opportunities.

The critical role of the Left

It took a five-and-a-half decade struggle by working people and dramatic political developments to ensure a policy shift that was somewhat closer to the Directive Principles, and, more specifically, the right to work. In the 2004 general election, the Bharatiya Janata Party was defeated by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance but without a majority, leading to a situation where, for the first time, the central government was dependent on the support of Left parties. Importantly, the Left parties led by the CPI(M) had fought the elections independently on their own programme and strength. MGNREGA was possible because of this political configuration. The Left parties played a critical role in the shaping of the final law adopted unanimously by Parliament in 2005.

The law is a partial recognition of the right to work and the acceptance of the responsibility of the state to ensure an increased share of national resources for the provision of work at a minimum wage. The law guarantees a minimum of 100 days of work throughout the year to a rural household and is universal, open to all adults (men and women) who volunteer for manual labour. Most importantly, the law is based on fulfilling the demand for work, which is not static and can increase or decrease according to the requirement of rural households. There is a deep democratic content in this. If a household has better choices for employment, it has the right to exercise that choice while retaining the fallback provided by MGNREGA. The law guarantees equal wages for men and women, with the entire wage bill to be paid by the central government.

The Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Bill 2025 is a direct assault on the rights of India's rural working poor

The State governments, under the law, bear some financial responsibility of around 10% and have a say in the design of schemes and their implementation in tune with the needs of the State. Panchayats have both a right and a responsibility to identify and design projects required in the areas under their jurisdiction. This demand-driven universally applicable law was probably the first of its kind in the capitalist world.

An erasure of fundamental features

The Narendra Modi government, with its partners, the Telugu Desam Party and the Janata Dal (United) as drum beaters, scraps all these fundamental features in its draft Bill. It will no longer be demand driven, but determined by "normative financial allocations" decided by the central government. The Centre will legally have no obligation now if expenditure exceeds this allocation. The States, already in financial crisis because of the unjust denial of their share in central tax revenues, are being saddled with 40% of the cost. The Bill is highly centralised and everything – from the design of projects to digitalised audits – will be controlled by the central government. These features are a direct assault on the federal character of the Constitution.

The class bias in favour of the rural rich is blatantly displayed in the clause in the Bill which prohibits any work under the proposed law during the peak agricultural season. With increased mechanisation in agriculture, workdays have drastically reduced. The work pattern of MGNREGA shows that it is only when agricultural work is not available and when wages paid are below MGNREGA standards that workers opt for MGNREGA in the peak season.

The prohibition will reduce the bargaining capacity of rural workers, who, in the absence of MGNREGA, will be forced to accept terms and conditions set by big landowners. This will affect women who get lower wages than men in agriculture. The law legalises Aadhaar card linkage, online digitally recorded attendance as a condition for eligibility and wage payment. This is despite ample evidence that such conditions including poor connectivity have victimised workers.

Using the acronym G Ram G, as the name of the law (Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Bill 2025), is a low-level manoeuvre to appeal to believers. But when crores of people will shout 'G-Ram-G *murdabad*' against the law, it may hurt sentiments and backfire on the government.

A reflection of distress

Those of us who have worked closely with MGNREGA workers know the difficult conditions in which people work. In some cases women have to lift up to 3,000 kilograms of mud a day to fulfil the productivity norm. Yet, if they make up well over 50% of MGNREGA workers in most States, it is surely a reflection of deep agrarian distress and the lack of a better alternative.

Adivasis constitute around 8.6% of the population. But among MGNREGA workers, according to last year's figures, they are as high as 18% and Scheduled Castes make up 19%. Therefore, over two-thirds of workers belong to social categories protected by the Constitution. Any reversal of their rights is an attack on the Constitution. But even their representation in the redress/advisory councils has been eliminated in the draft law.

Since 2014, the Narendra Modi government has diluted and starved MGNREGA of funds even as it has greatly increased tax concessions and write-offs to corporates. While the number of workers increased from around two crores in the early days to over 7.7 crore workers now, the expenditures have stagnated or declined – never over 0.2% of GDP. In 2024-25, 8.9 crore workers demanded work but only 7.9 crore workers got work – 99 lakh workers were turned away. Wage arrears have mounted – sometimes up to ₹8,000 crore. On an average, households have got less than 50 days of work instead of 100 days. The farce of promising 125 days in the proposed draft rubs salt into the wound. But if people keep coming to MGNREGA sites it is because they have no alternative – such is the desperation and instability in the lives of India's rural poor.

That lifeline, instead of being strengthened, is now being cut. The Directive Principles of the Constitution are being bulldozed. Shame on this government.

A bold step amid an ambitious nuclear energy target

R.B. Grover

is Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Homi Bhabha National Institute, and Member, Atomic Energy Commission

Human development correlates with energy consumption. In a seminal paper published in *Scientific American* in 1971, Earl Cook traced the growth in per capita energy consumption through stages, from primitive to technological man. The primitive man needed energy only for food. The energy needs for home and commerce were added at the hunting stage. When humans became agriculturists, their energy needs also arose from industry, agriculture and transportation. The energy needs for food, home, commerce, agriculture and transportation continued to increase through the industrial and technological stages. The present era belongs to digital technologies, and the digitalisation of the economy demands additional energy.

Growth rate and generation

The metric "Human Development Index (HDI)" is a fair representation of human development. It combines three important indicators, *viz.*, per capita income, education and health. Using the correlation between HDI and per capita Final Energy Consumption (FEC), one can determine the level of energy needed to reach a specific HDI.

As a member of the G-20 grouping, India rubs shoulders with countries that have an HDI above 0.9. Estimates indicate that to reach 0.9, and considering further improvements in energy efficiency and electrification of end uses, India will need to generate about 24,000 Terra-Watt-Hours (TWh) per annum (*Curr. Sci.*, 2022, 122(5), 517-527). As a part of it, about 60% will be used as electricity, and the rest to generate hydrogen in electrolysers. Hydrogen is needed to decarbonise sectors such as the production of steel, fertilizers and plastics. When alternative processes for producing hydrogen are developed at scale, less electricity will be needed.

The generation in 2023-24 was about 1,950 TWh, and the CAGR in the recent past has been about 4.8%. Maintaining a growth rate at about this level, it would be possible to generate 24,000 TWh per annum in four to five decades. However, there are two complexities. First, India has to decarbonise its energy mix. Therefore, the growth in electricity generation must be accompanied by end-use electrification and a redesign of the energy mix.

The SHANTI Bill, 2025, will help India's nuclear energy plans

The present share of electricity in the FEC is about 22% and must rise significantly. The present energy mix is one that is heavily reliant on fossil fuels, and has to be replaced by energy sources that do not emit carbon. That implies that India has to generate more using hydro, nuclear, solar and wind power.

The decarbonised energy mix

In India, hydro and wind potential in India is limited. India is densely populated and it precludes diverting large tracts of land for the deployment of solar photovoltaic. While the full potential of hydro, solar and wind must be exploited, their potential is insufficient to provide the energy level necessary to achieve an HDI above 0.9. Therefore, nuclear generation has to be ramped up. Until that is done, India will have to continue exploiting fossil fuels.

Second, solar and wind are intermittent sources. Electricity generated by photovoltaic cells or windmills is variable. Therefore, to match electricity supply with demand, it must be stored when it is in excess and augmented when generation is less than demand. Storage is expensive and providing storage to address seasonal variations in solar and wind is prohibitively expensive. To provide affordable electricity to consumers, the electricity mix must have sufficient baseload generation capacity – that is, generation that is not dependent on seasons or time of day. Nuclear power plants are base-load and must be a part of a decarbonised energy mix.

Realising this imperative, the units of the Department of Atomic Energy, in cooperation with Indian industry, have been working to harness nuclear energy in a manner so that the complete supply chain is indigenous. It is only uranium that has to be imported as India does not have enough uranium. India has developed technology for fabricating fuel, producing heavy water, and manufacturing all the equipment that is needed to support the construction of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs). The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited has mastered the design and operation of PHWRs of various ratings, the highest being 700 MW. Three 700 MW units are already working, and the fourth is about to be completed. Two more are in an advanced stage of construction. In 2017, the central government sanctioned the construction of 10 700 MW PHWRs and work on these units is progressing.

A regulatory body was established in the 1980s and has developed the capability and capacity to regulate nuclear power plants. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed technologies to reprocess spent nuclear fuel to recover valuable materials and handle nuclear waste. As a result of these efforts, nuclear power generation is a technically-feasible, affordable and safe option for India.

The SHANTI Bill

These successes have emboldened the central government to set a target of 100 GW of nuclear installed capacity by mid-century. Both Houses of Parliament have passed The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025. The Bill is an overarching piece of legislation and combines provisions included in the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010. It says that the existing Atomic Energy Regulatory Board "shall be deemed to have been constituted under this Act". The Bill ensures that the prime responsibility for safety, security and safeguards lies with the licensee of the facility.

The target set for nuclear energy is ambitious. The Bill passed by Parliament is a bold step. India needs ambitious targets and bold steps to become a developed country.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welfare and schemes

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was one of the worst policies ever made by the United Progressive Alliance government. The aim of the policy may have been with good intentions, but its execution was very poor. The 'terms and conditions' of this policy should have been area-specific, by identifying the poorest people in remote areas in districts of States . Most rich districts in northern India should have been excluded. There are instances of people with a *pucca* house that is well furnished and with the latest gadgets, registered under the scheme, which is an example of the gross misutilisation of the state exchequer.

Mohinder Kumar Saharan,
Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan

It is a wonder how the ruling dispensation boasts that the VB-G Ram G Act will usher in '*Ram Rajya*' to villages while the said new Act has been promulgated with the sole intention of depriving the poor and the needy of their livelihood. That State governments will also be forced to bear 40% of the cost of the new scheme will disturb the financial planning of State governments and affect the allocations made for other welfare schemes in their Budget.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

What is being altered is not merely administrative design but also constitutional intent. MGNREGA embodied a secular, legal guarantee rooted in citizenship, decentralisation and justiciable entitlements. By recasting it as a centrally-sponsored, supply-driven scheme, the Bill weakens States, caps demand, and converts a right into discretionary benevolence. Replacing Gandhiji's name with "Ram" reframes welfare as cultural patronage rather than citizenship entitlement, blurring the constitutional boundary between state and religion. This mirrors a broader trend, from projecting state institutions under a *Dharma Dhwaja* to recoding welfare in religious symbolism. Development policies in India should not become a vehicle for ideological signalling.

Harsh Pawaria,
Rohtak, Haryana

The SHANTI Bill

The nuclear energy Bill is an instance where the Centre is acting in haste. The Bhopal gas tragedy still haunts the nation and a private airline created chaos recently. Privatisation and private parties will only see the pursuit of profit as the first goal. The Centre should have a broader debate.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Is the Artificial Intelligence boom a bubble?

Bhagwan Chowdhry

Professor of Finance and Faculty Director, I-Venture at the Indian School of Business and Professor Emeritus at UCLA Anderson

Anoop Kunchukuttan

Principal Applied Researcher at Microsoft India and founding member and co-lead of AI4Bharat, a research centre based in IIT Madras that works on advancing language technologies for Indian languages

PARLEY

Global spending on Artificial Intelligence (AI) is projected to reach $375 billion this year and $500 billion by 2026, according to the UBS. That raises a fundamental question: is AI's value being driven by genuine technological progress, or by investor enthusiasm racing ahead of reality? Is the AI boom a bubble? Bhagwan Chowdhry and Anoop Kunchukuttan discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Areena Arora.** Edited excerpts:

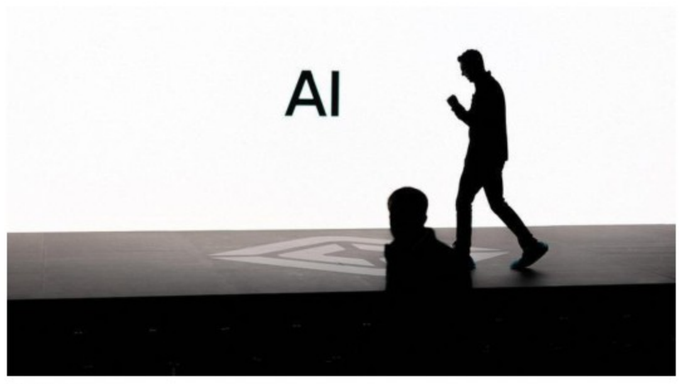
Where did the idea that the AI boom might be a bubble originate? Is it driven by weak monetisation, comparisons to the dot-com bubble era, or by limits in what current AI can realistically deliver?

Bhagwan Chowdhry: People only remember dot-com as a bubble. I don't think of dot-com as a failure at all. What came out of that bubble was great progress. Look where we are today and how much we use the Internet. It wouldn't have been possible if not for the dot-com hype. All technological revolutions follow the same pattern. It starts with hope, goes to hype, which then translates to make. Make also means break. AI is going to be like that too.

With widespread usage but limited customer willingness to pay, what does AI resemble at this stage? Is it similar to early social media and cloud computing or something fundamentally different?

Anoop Kunchukuttan: In one sense, AI is already pervasive throughout the technology stack, from very early systems like email spam classifiers to recommendation systems. Increasingly, AI has started doing really well in narrow domains like speech recognition and translation. What we are seeing, especially since ChatGPT was released in late 2022, is the idea of a chat assistant and, more recently, highly autonomous agents. The bet is on whether we can automate tasks at a very large scale. In some narrow domains, AI is already successful. We will find more use cases where it boosts productivity. The challenge is whether we will have something transformative in terms of highly autonomous agents. We are not there yet and there is a lot of speculation and hype. The important thing is to ensure reliability, trust, factual correctness, safety, and common sense. These are challenges that should be addressed before mass adoption.

Do you have any predictions you would be comfortable making about AI's mass scale and adaptability?



REUTERS

AK: It is difficult to predict a timeline. Research takes its own path.

BC: We are going to overestimate what is going to happen in one year, but we will underestimate what is going to happen in 5-10 years.

What does the dot-com comparison get wrong about today's AI market?

BC: Speculators are going to bet on a hundred things of which 95 will fail. But they will fail financially, not in terms of technology. Technology will continue to get better. Out of so many startups, maybe only a handful will survive. So, it may look like a failure from that point of view. But the ones that do survive are going to change the world. This genie is out of the bottle and we are not going to put it back.

Where is the biggest mismatch between scientific progress and market expectations?

AK: Let us go back to the dot-com analogy. It was the idea that the Internet was a transformative technology and people built businesses which reached mass scale and achieved a lot of business value.

AI is different. The technology is known to some extent in some narrow domains and we will continue to see benefits there. However, when it comes to artificial general intelligence (human-like intelligence) and highly autonomous behaviour, we don't know to what extent they will succeed. Until 2-3 years ago, there was a notion that you could simply scale up models and they would get better. Those scaling laws are being challenged now. You don't get that quantum of improvement just by making models larger. It is difficult to predict the paths (AI) will take. A better analogy is the search engine infrastructure and the hype that came with it. Its potential was not clear. It was very ambitious to say that you could index the whole web and in microseconds it would fetch you an answer to a query. But it was done over time. Multiple search engine companies invested and built the technology that made this possible. AI is similar. Today, the gains might be smaller, but over time, the gains will accrue.

> We are making rapid advances in AI. No doubt a lot of experiments will fail. That is the nature of science. But I hope people investing in science understand that that is important.
> ANOOP KUNCHUKUTTAN

What are some of the important capability challenges in today's AI systems that we are underestimating or misunderstanding?

BC: When lay people think about AI, they only think about AI that is going to benefit them immediately. The biggest gains are going to come from how AI handles science – in biology, chemistry, 3D modelling, or the discovery of proteins and drugs. Most of us don't pay attention to those. Even mathematical research is going to change in a fundamental way.

AK: There are use cases which can make a larger impact in science, education, or medical science. We need to ask ourselves whether we are willing to invest in areas where the returns might not be immediate. There are transformative areas where sustained efforts will lead to gains.

Do you think scientific progress should always be judged against investor confidence? Does the fear of a bubble burst slow down genuine innovation?

AK: This is not the first time this is happening in AI. There is a term for it: AI winter. In the 1960s and 1970s, and then in the 1980s and 1990s, there was the promise that AI could come up with autonomous agents. But it did not pan out. Back then, the sentiment was the same and the hype did not materialise and there was a freeze in funding for AI. So, that risk exists. We should invest for the long term while also looking for short-term gains. Because we are focusing on innovation right now, there isn't as much focus on efficiency. If we focus on efficiency and competition in the chip market, we can make economics more viable.

BC: What we have to worry about is whether this will lead to any systemic crisis. Will it cause a sequence of banks failing or the economy going down? That is what we have to focus on. But the nature of the game of speculation is that some people will lose money and some people won't. When we ask if we should be worried about AI, we have to ask, who is this we? Even in the dot-com bubble, consumers benefited.

Investment in chip making and data centres amounts to roughly 0.5% of global GDP. Is that level of spending economically justified?

AK: It is difficult to judge. But one trend in computing is clear – that more computing power typically helps to improve systems. To that extent, investment in data centres and chips is warranted.

A McKinsey report said only a small minority of companies has reported any meaningful profits driven by AI. If productivity gains don't monetise in the next few years, will markets reprice AI like they do any other asset? How would researchers then make the case to keep investing to these companies that are not seeing profits from AI?

BC: Markets are going to reprice companies; they are not going to reprice AI as a whole. That will continue to exist. Companies and attempts may fail, but there will be successes too.

AK: From a technologist's standpoint, we are making rapid advances in AI. No doubt a lot of experiments will fail. That is the nature of science. But I hope people investing in science understand that that is important.

Is the AI boom a bubble waiting to be burst, or is this the early, messy phase of a real lasting technological shift?

BC: I would say it is both. There are little bubbles that will burst, but that is a good thing. In 10 years, we as a society will be ahead if we make sure it doesn't lead to a systemic crisis, either in terms of security or in terms of failure that percolates from one place to other.

AK: As far as technology goes, there is no doubt that it is positive. We are already living through a lot of AI embedded in whatever we are doing, and it is only going to grow more. ChatGPT was a moment of inflection that has led to this boom. In the process, there might be failures, but the overall trend is forward looking.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Creatures of the night: sub-editors who turn the wheels after dark

There is satisfaction in producing the newspaper, in wrapping up the minutiae, in having the last word

Kannal Achuthan

If Count Dracula should ever find a need to make a living, he would do well to apply for the role of a sub-editor in a newspaper. He could catch up on his beauty sleep during the day and be ready, as twilight falls, to taste copy, letting the words swirl in his mouth before prepping to feed on the news frenzy.

Sub-editors are, as Byron might describe, creatures of the night, "mellowed to a tender light that heaven to gaudy day denies". We wake up and let coffee run in our veins, catching up on the day's news and getting ready for the story list that will inevitably shape-shift before we can pin down the front-page line-up.

To reporters, those unfathomable creatures of the light, every story they write is important. But it is the sub-editors who must curate them, negotiating the tightrope between content and form, and story and space. Not for us the mad dash for a scoop or a quote; the nocturnal hunt is of a different kind. Like an owl waiting for the tiniest movement in the grass, we must remain alert to the possibility of errors, double-check facts, and find the right words for a headline that will fit a three-column, two-deck space in a 30-point size. This is why a reader may find 'bats for' as the go-to phrasal verb in a headline instead of 'recommends', which takes up far more space. Or why the verb 'flays' is used more frequently than the sober 'criticises'.

Multitasking while watching the clock is par for the course. Copy must be subbed for the Internet, a different headline worked out for print, pictures added, captions given, paragraphs trimmed, the revisions played back to the reporter, layouts swapped if a more important story arrives, and pages scrutinised before they are released and typeset. Indeed, we still use the word 'typeset' that originates from the letterpress era, when type was composed by hand for each page.

All these tasks need to be done at an hour when most people are tucked into bed, deep in slumber. This is when we need to be most active, keep our focus sharp and stay alert to the possibility of a late news break or, god forbid, a missing 'l' in the word 'public'.

Such an environment is a happy place for members of the nocturnal tribe, who work best when the stars twinkle. Our headlines for the 'city edition' (that takes shape after midnight) have more zing, the team's wisecracks have more sting, and leftover snacks get finished in a blink.

Our doctors are not pleased with the schedules we keep. You are going against the natural circadian rhythm, they say. There will be long-term health problems, they warn. Melatonin patterns will be disrupted, they counsel. But what if you are already on a delayed phase and have been a natural night owl? Become a sub-editor in a newspaper. Everyone has a place under the moon.

It is likely that you will not have many friends outside work. Pleasant evenings on the beach or going to a play at a theatre will have to be scheduled for rare days off. Relationship problems could creep in. Family may disown you because you rarely turn up for wedding ceremonies in the mornings.

Still, sub-editors persist. There is satisfaction in producing an edition that regular folks will wake up to in the morning, in wrapping up the minutiae, in having the last word.

When our work is done and we are on the way home in the office cab, we have a glimpse of the other night workers: sanitation staff sweeping roads, call centre employees huddled near a late-night tea shop, bleary-eyed security guards, factory-workers, police personnel, and more. Unsung heroes who work out of sight, whose names may not light up bylines, but who are the keepers of the fire and the gatekeepers of content.

The hands of the clock show it is 4 a.m., or maybe it is 5. The sun will rise, the sub-editor will sleep.

kannal.achuthan@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Baby shower

A mother shields her child from the sudden downpour in Chennai. VELANKANNI RAJ B.

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 19, 1975

Pardon for Nixon: New disclosure

Washington, Dec. 18: The U.S. President, Mr. Gerald Ford's reputation for candour has seemingly suffered a setback with the disclosure now that he had been persuaded by at least three former aides of Mr. Richard Nixon to grant the ex-President a pardon, after the latter had resigned last August in the wake of the Watergate scandals, and faced the possibility of criminal prosecutions being launched against him.

Ever since he succeeded Mr. Nixon, Mr. Ford had maintained that he had made the decision to grant the pardon on his own, and that he had not discussed the matter with anyone, before he announced his decision granting the pardon on September 8. 1974. After becoming President, in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee in October last year, Mr. Ford, who was questioned closely on the pardon issue, had said: "Nobody made any recommendations to me to pardon the former President. At no time after I became President was the subject of a pardon for Mr. Nixon raised by the former President or anyone representing him."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 19, 1925

Indian Railway fares

Delhi, Dec. 18: I understand that the Railway Board have seriously taken up the question of the reduction of railway rates. They have already made an analysis of the statistics regarding railway earnings. The question of the reduction of railway fares was raised, several times, by the members of the Assembly and the Council of State in the speeches made on the last railway budget and, only a few days ago, the South Indian Railway announced a reduction in its fares.

From Page One

SC asks EC to consider 'ground realities' on SIR

Mr. Sibal said 25 lakh electors would be excluded from the draft list in Kerala.

"The wife is excluded and the husband is included. When the authorities know of this, they delete the husband too," Mr. Sibal said.

The EC is scheduled to make its submissions countering the challenge to the SIR exercise. The previous extension was announced on December 11, 2025, the earlier deadline to submit enumeration forms.

Further, the Supreme Court did not entertain a plea citing the dangers of passing on citizens' confidential data to "volunteers" in the enumeration phase.

India signs trade pact with Oman

This is the first bilateral agreement that Oman has signed with any country since it signed a deal with the U.S. in 2006. It is also the second deal India has signed with a country in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the first being with the United Arab Emirates in February 2022.

Mr. Goyal had also pointed out that a trade deal with Oman also serves as a gateway for India to the GCC region, eastern Europe, central Asia, and to Africa.

Benefit to labour-intensive sectors

The Prime Minister added that the CEPA will create new opportunities for growth, employment and innovation for the youth of both countries.

Taking to X soon after the signing of the deal, Mr. Goyal said that the deal would "significantly benefit" labour-intensive sectors, generating employment and strengthening Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), artisans, and women-led enterprises.

Operation Sindoor highlighted India's air power edge: Rajnath

Defence Minister calls the Indian Air Force a technologically advanced, operationally agile, strategically confident force safeguarding national interests amid evolving global order; he says govt. committed to strengthening security apparatus

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that India's high-impact, short-duration operational capability was clearly demonstrated during Operation Sindoor, underscoring the growing strength of Indian air power in modern warfare.

Addressing the Air Force Commanders' Conclave in New Delhi, he described the Indian Air Force (IAF) as a technologically advanced, operationally agile, strategically confident and future-oriented force safeguarding national interests amid a rapidly evolving global order.

The Defence Minister praised the courage, speed and precision with which the IAF destroyed terror camps during Operation Sindoor, while also effectively handling Pakistan's "irresponsible reaction" following the strikes. Highlighting the trust of the people in the armed forces, particularly in India's air defence capability, he said the calm response of citizens during the attempted attacks on Indian installations reflected strong confidence in operational preparedness.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh and other dignitaries, at the IAF Commanders' Conclave in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

Lessons from conflict

Mr. Singh urged the Commanders to draw lessons from Operation Sindoor, stressing on the need to thoroughly understand the offensive and defensive capabilities of adversaries.

Reflecting on the changing nature of warfare, Mr. Singh said recent conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war, the Israel-Hamas conflict, the Balakot air strikes and Operation Sindoor had established air power as a decisive force.

He emphasised that air power was not merely a tactical asset but a strategic instrument, characterised by speed, surprise and shock, enabling the leadership to deliver clear strategic messages while aligning military means with national objectives.

Commending the performance of air defence systems and other equipment used during Operation Sindoor, the Defence Minister reiterated the government's commitment to further strengthening the country's security apparatus.

He noted that 21st Century warfare was increasingly driven by technology and adaptability, with cyber warfare, artificial intelligence, unmanned systems, satellite-based surveillance and space-enabled capabilities reshaping future conflicts. Precision-guided weapons, real-time intelligence and data-driven decision-making, he said, had become essential for success.

Sudarshan Chakra

Expressing confidence in future capabilities, Mr. Singh said the Sudarshan Chakra, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during this year's Independence Day address, will play a crucial role in protecting national assets. He also reaffirmed that the development of indigenous jet engines has become a national mission.

Highlighting jointness as a force multiplier, the Defence Minister described Operation Sindoor as a shining example of tri-Service synergy.

India and the Netherlands reaffirm defence ties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, David van Weel, in New Delhi on Thursday, reaffirming the steadily expanding defence partnership between the two nations.

During the meeting, they held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral security and defence cooperation, including priority areas for the co-development and co-production of defence equipment, the Ministry of Defence stated.

The two countries reiterated their commitment to strengthening military-to-military engagement, and developing defence cooperation as a key pillar of the India-Netherlands Strategic Partnership.

The talks also underscored the shared commitment of India and the Netherlands to a free and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. Emphasising the need for closer defence ties, the Ministers highlighted the importance of connecting the defence industries of both countries, particularly in niche and emerging technologies.

'202 Indians hired for Russian armed forces'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As many as 202 Indians are "believed to have been recruited into the Russian armed forces" since 2022, and 26 of them are reported to have lost their lives, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, adding that at least two Indians have been cremated in Russia.

"Concerted efforts by the Government have resulted in early discharge of 119 of them; 26 are reported to have lost their lives and seven are reported missing by the Russian side. Efforts are ongoing for early discharge of 50 individuals," Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh said in a written reply.

Mr. Singh was responding to a question by Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale and Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala on the number of Indian nationals identified as illegally working or forced to work in the Russian army, along with the count of fatalities and missing people since 2022, when Russia began its war with Ukraine.

The Union government remains continuously engaged with the Russian government, to ensure the safety, well-being, and early discharge of all Indian nationals in the Russian armed forces, the Minister said. He added that the matter is being discussed at various levels.

On December 17, *The Hindu* reported that the bodies of two Indians killed in the Russia-Ukraine warzone over the past three months had been brought to Delhi.

'India faces its greatest strategic challenge in Bangladesh since 1971'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The developments in Bangladesh pose the "greatest strategic challenge" to India since the Liberation War of 1971, a parliamentary panel has said in its report. The report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, chaired by Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor, has covered the turbulent India-Bangladesh relation of the past two years and said that Bangladesh is witnessing a "shift" and that New Delhi could end up losing the "strategic space" in Dhaka without necessary recalibration.

"India faces its greatest strategic challenge in Bangladesh since the Liberation War of 1971. The challenge in 1971 was existential, a humanitarian crisis, and the birth of a new nation. Today, the threat is subtler but probably graver, more serious; a generational discontinuity, a shift of political order, and a potential strategic realignment away from India," the report said, quoting an expert who deposed before the panel on June 27, 2025.

Bangladeshi Police try to stop protesters marching to the Assistant Indian High Commissioner's office in Rajshahi on Thursday. AFP

"The collapse of the Awami League dominance, the surge of youth-led nationalism, the re-entry of Islamists, and intensifying Chinese and Pakistani influence marked a turning point," said the report, adding, "If India fails to recalibrate at this moment, it risks losing strategic space in Dhaka not to war, but to irrelevance."

Giving a detailed account of interactions held between the Committee and officials of the Ministry of External Affairs since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, 2024, the report said India has taken the right decision in providing shelter to ousted Prime Minister Hasina but pointed out that New Delhi needs to ensure that Ms. Hasina does not carry out political activities aimed at her country from Indian soil.

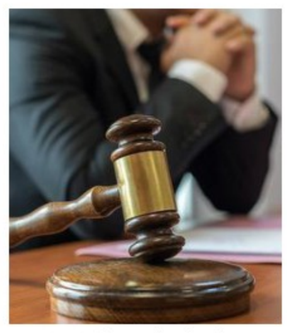
Giving refuge to Ms. Hasina has been a major issue between India and Bangladesh since the fall of the Awami League government, and the matter has come up repeatedly since Ms. Hasina was given a death sentence last month, and the authorities in Bangladesh have been accusing Ms. Hasina and her colleagues of fomenting trouble in various parts of the country.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told the panel Ms. Hasina is issuing statements using "personal communication devices she has access to" and India "does not provide her with a political platform to undertake political activity from Indian territory".

Retired judges don't want to sit as junior ad hoc judges: CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant revealed on Thursday that retired High Court judges are reluctant to return to the Bench as ad hoc judges to clear the massive pendency of criminal cases for a simple reason: they are "embarrassed" to sit as junior judges alongside younger colleagues.



Serving judges ask why they should sit with a retired person on the Bench, adds CJI Kant.

The High Courts across the country are burdened by mounting arrears, particularly in criminal cases. Data from the National Judicial Data Grid shows that 18,98,833 criminal cases are pending in the 25 High Courts. Of these, 68.27% or 12,96,374 cases have been pending for over a year. Against a sanctioned strength of 1,122 judges, there are 298 vacancies in the High Courts as of December 15.

Based on SC verdict

Alarmed by the backlog, the Supreme Court in a judgment in January activated Article 224A of the Constitution, allowing the Chief Justices of the High Courts to appoint retired former judges as ad hoc judges to clear criminal appeals.

However, the response from the High Courts has been lukewarm, with several courts not sending names to the Supreme Court for appointment as ad hoc judges.

"In my travels to the various High Courts, I spoke to the Chief Justices. They said there were many former judges who were keen and willing to return to the Bench and work... But they feel very embarrassed to sit as a junior judge with a serving judge on Division Benches," Chief Justice Kant told Attorney-General R. Venkataramani during a special hearing. He pointed out that most criminal appeals were pending before Division Benches or two-judge Benches in the High Courts.

The Chief Justice, accompanied by Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi, noted that a large number of cases were pending in the Allahabad, Punjab and Haryana, and Patna High Courts.

The Chief Justice said the problem existed from the other end as well. "The serving judges would ask why they should sit with a retired person heading the Bench... Can we persuade a sitting judge to be a Bench partner with a retired judge heading the Bench?" he said.

Amicus curiae and senior advocate K. Parameshwar referred to an April 2021 judgment on the appointment of ad hoc judges.

LS passes rural jobs Bill amid protests

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, replacing the 20-year-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), amid loud protests from Opposition MPs who stormed the well of the House, tore copies of the Bill, and raised slogans.

The Rajya Sabha began debating the Bill, a little past 6.50 p.m.

The Opposition criticised the "rushed approach" of the government, saying that the Upper House members got only 45 minutes to file their amendments.

Eight hours have been allotted for the Bill and the debate is expected to go on till the early hours of Friday. In the Lok Sabha, the debate had gone on till 1.30 a.m. on Thursday.

Responding to the debate in the Lower House, Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the MGNREGA was riddled with "problems" and "corruption was rampant". He also accused State governments of "misusing" funds.

"Funds were not allotted as expected. As per the Act, 60% of the funds were to be spent on labour and 40% on material. But only 26% was spent on material and funds were siphoned off," he said.

Comparing the implementation of the Act by the United Progress Alliance regime with the Modi government's record, he claimed, "More money has been spent and better infrastructure created now."

Kingfisher employees to get ₹311.67 cr. pending dues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has facilitated the restitution of ₹311.67 crore towards long-pending workmen dues of Kingfisher Airlines Limited, an official said on Thursday.

"The restitution has been enabled pursuant to the order...passed by the Recovery Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Chennai, directing release of funds realised from the sale of attached shares which had been earlier restituted to State Bank of India by the ED under Prevention of Money Laundering Act," the official said. The amount is to be transferred to the official liquidator for disbursement to former employees of the airline company.

NCST to investigate murder of tribal boy on university campus

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on Thursday announced that it would investigate the alleged murder of a minor tribal student by three of his hostel mates at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, which claims to provide education to nearly 30,000 tribal students on its Bhubaneswar campus.

The NCST has issued notices directing the Home, School and Mass Education, and Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Departments to furnish information on the incident. In addition, the Director General of Police, the Commissionerate of Police for Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, and the District Collector of Khordha have been asked to submit details on developments in the case.

"The Commission has decided to investigate/inquire into the matter in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it under Article 338A of the Constitution of India. You are hereby requested to submit the facts and information on the action taken on the said allegations to the Commission within three days of receipt of this notice," the NCST said in a letter to six offices.

The Odisha Police on Wednesday arrested eight employees of the institute for allegedly suppressing information related to the suspected killing of a Class IX student by hostellers.

Ram Sutar

Sculptor Ram Sutar passes away at 100

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Ram V. Sutar, the legendary sculptor whose creations, including the Statue of Unity, defined the country's public art landscape, was instrumental in giving Indian memorial sculpture global recognition.

Sutar passed away on Wednesday night at the age of 100.

Among his vast body of work are statues of Mahatma Gandhi at the Parliament complex, and Dr B.R. Ambedkar.

APPEAL

Master **Rudra Kumar Samanta**, Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center MRN No.10020001733927, 4 years son of Mr.Naba Kumar Samanta is diagnosed with Thalassemia Major. The only Curative Treatment is Bone Marrow Transplant. We are planning a Haploidentical Bone Marrow Transplant using one of the parents as the Stem Cell Donor. The approximate cost for the treatment is Rs.45,55,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. Save Poor Lives A/c Rudra Kumar Samanta, Our A/c Details: S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Door No.14/76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Ph. No.04442044165/9884607377 Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com. *Merry Christmas to All*

Rajya Sabha passes Bill to allow private firms in nuclear sector

Amendments to SHANTI Bill and proposal to send it to a panel, moved by Opposition MPs, defeated in a voice vote; Jairam Ramesh warns against relaxation of any liability norms while Jitendra Singh says there will be no compromise with safety

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the Rajya Sabha also clearing the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill on Thursday, the Union government said the Bill seeks to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and increase the capacity of India's atomic energy sector.

Senior Congress MP Jairam Ramesh, who initiated a debate, claimed that the Bill was brought with the intention of increasing the contribution of private companies in the nuclear sector. Mr. Ramesh warned the Centre against any relaxation in liability norms and cited the example of France, where all nuclear reactors are under government control.

The amendments to the Bill and the proposal to send the Bill to a Select Committee, moved by Opposition MPs, were defeated in a voice vote.

Big change: Union Minister Jitendra Singh speaking in the Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament on Thursday. ANI

Countering the Opposition charges, Minister of State for Department of Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh said that nuclear power is a reliable source of energy, unlike other renewable energy options. He said there will be no compromise with safety. Mr. Singh said there has been no report of any radiation-related hazards to the public from any Indian reactors.

Mr. Ramesh said, "The Narendra Modi government has the habit of ignoring the milestones achieved by past governments." He said the BJP opposed the nuclear deal between India and America in 2008. "The BJP had then said that there is not much future in nuclear energy. It is because of the nuclear deal that happened in 2008 that now the BJP can think of such a Bill," he said.

"Our country has the capacity – we have installed plants of 220 megawatts and 540 megawatts. Utilise that capacity. Similarly, the government had brought farm laws to benefit the private sector, which had to be withdrawn. This Bill should not be vendor-driven. We are self-reliant in the matter of nuclear power. So, promote indigenous technology," Mr. Ramesh said. He said the private sector will bring capital, not technology.

'Will shape sector'

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, MP, said the country stands at a decisive juncture in its energy journey and the SHANTI Bill will shape the civil nuclear sector for generations, ending fragmented governance and creating an investment-ready framework. "This is not privatisation; this is partnership with accountability," he said.

Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghose said the Bill is fundamentally dangerous. "This Bill brings neither Shanti nor security... we are not debating whether India should pursue nuclear energy, India has always pursued nuclear energy responsibly for decades..." she said.

DMK MP P. Wilson said the Bill was a "nuclear bomb which threatens the country's peace and security". "There is nothing peaceful, nothing sustainable, nothing transformative about this legislation. On the contrary, it is a reckless, dangerous and deeply flawed attempt to privatise one of the most sensitive and high-risk sectors of a nation – the nuclear energy sector," he said.

Unions oppose Bill

The legislation will dismantle India's carefully built nuclear safety and accountability framework and opens the most hazardous energy sector to large-scale private and foreign participation, the National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers, the platform of 10 central trade unions and the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said in a joint statement. It says it would oppose the "draconian" Bill.

Dismantling MGNREGA will be a historic error: leading global academics

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Act reaffirms economic dignity as a fundamental right, they say in an open letter to the Centre

A group of leading international economists and social scientists have called upon the government to reverse the imminent repeal of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), warning that dismantling the scheme will be a "historic error".

The signatories have written an open letter addressed to the Centre. They include Nobel laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz; Pavlina R. Tcherneva, President, The Levy Economics Institute (U.S.); Thomas Piketty, Professor, Paris School of Economics (France); Isabelle Ferreras, Professor, University of Louvain (Belgium); Darrick Hamilton, Professor, New School for Social Research (U.S.); Randall Wray, Senior Scholar, The Levy Economics Institute (U.S.); and James Galbraith, Professor, The University of Texas at Austin (U.S.).

Describing the MGNREGA as "the world's most significant policy operationalising a demand-driven, legal right to employment", the academics said that it reaffirmed "economic dignity as a fundamental right". And there is empirical evidence to underscore its impact. "The early years of the Act coincided with unprecedented rural wage growth and studies confirmed the programme's positive effects on economic output and efficiency, dispelling myths of unproductivity."

The signatories said that "chronic underfunding and payment delays" had long hampered the scheme. But with the new Bill bringing in a shift to devolve the scheme to States and without commensurate fiscal support, it threatened its existence. Under the new funding pattern, the States could bear up to 100% of material costs, compared with 25% earlier. "This creates a catastrophic Catch-22: States are legally liable to provide employment, while central financing is withdrawn," the letter warned, arguing that poorer States will be forced to curb project approvals, stifling work demand.

They flagged provisions allowing discretionary suspension of the scheme, citing the unexplained defunding of West Bengal over the past three years as an example of political misuse. Such measures, they said, render the employment guarantee "meaningless". The MGNREGA's design not only provides wages but also creates rural assets such as wells, roads, and ponds, stimulating local economies. "To dismantle it now would abandon a proven instrument for poverty alleviation, social justice, and environmental care," the scholars wrote, calling for assured Central funding, timely wage payments, and restoration of the Act's foundational guarantee.

(For full text of the letter visit: newsth.live/openletter)

Matter is *sub judice*: govt. on verification of election affidavits

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had asked questions on creating a mechanism to verify candidate's affidavits

The government evaded a question on creating a mechanism to verify candidates' affidavits during elections. Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, in response to a question by Congress president and Rajya Sabha member Mallikarjun Kharge, said the matter was *sub judice* in the Allahabad High Court.

Mr. Kharge had asked the Law and Justice Ministry if the government had taken note of a committee's observation that responses from both the government and the Election Commission on creating a mechanism to verify candidate's affidavits were non-committal.

He asked if the government proposed to revisit those recommendations for a transparent affidavit verification system using technology and real-time data checks. He questioned whether consultations had been held with the poll panel or other agencies on the matter and if so, the details thereof and by when the verification mechanism would be put in place. Mr. Meghwal, in his written response, said the matter pertaining to the mechanism of verification of candidates' affidavit was *sub judice* before the Allahabad High Court.

Court's observation

A Division Bench of the court, in August, had observed that *prima facie* it appeared that the EC was the statutory body that was responsible for making the asset verification reports public. It sought an affidavit from the EC with explanation on why the verification reports of candidate's affidavits, mandated to be made public by the Supreme Court in 2018, had not been published.

Javed Akhtar slams Nitish Kumar over hijab incident

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Lyricist and poet Javed Akhtar on Thursday demanded an unconditional apology from Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for pulling down the hijab of a Muslim woman during a function in Patna.

While distributing appointment letters to newly appointed AYUSH doctors on Monday, Mr. Kumar pulled down the hijab of one of the doctors who came to receive the appointment letter. The video of the incident went viral on social media and Mr. Kumar has received sharp criticism.

"Everyone who knows me even in the most cursory manner knows how much I am against the traditional concept of *Parda* but it doesn't mean that by any stretch of imagination I can accept what Mr. Nitish has done to a Muslim lady doctor. I condemn it in very strong words. Mr. Nitish owes an unconditional apology to the lady," Mr. Akhtar said in a post on X.

In RS, Opposition flags lack of consultations before tabling new rural jobs Bill

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties flagged the lack of consultations before introducing the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, asking the government to table evidence of discussions held with State governments before increasing their financial liability.

They also invoked the example of the three farm laws, which they said were passed under similar circumstances and later withdrawn after a prolonged farmers' agitation. This Bill will also face the same fate, they said.

The Rajya Sabha began deliberations on the legislation at 6.50 p.m. Eight hours have been allotted for the debate, which is expected to conclude in the early hours of Friday.

Congress MP Mukul Wasnik opened the Opposition's attack. Mr. Wasnik said that the MGNREGA was passed unanimously after undergoing parliamentary scrutiny and extensive consultations. He asked, "Can the government say the same thing about this legislation?" He said that the Bill was introduced just three days before the last day of the Winter Session. He asked, "Did you speak to the State governments before increasing their financial liability? Were they taken into confidence? And if it has been done, can the government table those consultations in the House?"

Mukul Wasnik

RJD leader Manoj K. Jha said the MGNREGA was the closest approximation to the right to work as enshrined under Article 41 of the Indian Constitution. The new Bill, he said, was striking at the very soul of this Article.

AIADMK MP M. Thambidurai, while appreciating the increase in work-day entitlements from 100 days to 125 days, criticised the government for increasing the burden on State governments. If States are to bear 40% of the cost of the scheme as the new legislation lays down, he said, then States should also get 100% of taxes and other cess that the Centre collects.

Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya of the CPI(M) said the blackout period introduced in the legislation will rob the bargaining power of the rural poor, forcing them to work for minimum wages. The legislation allows for pausing the scheme during peak agricultural periods.

Congress committee meeting to focus on MGNREGA overhaul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee, the party's highest decision-making body, will meet on December 27 to deliberate on the government's move to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with new legislation, sources said on Thursday.

The MGNREGA was a flagship scheme introduced by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in its first term in 2005.

This would be the first meeting of the CWC following the debacle the party faced in the Bihar Assembly election. It also assumes significance as the party's strategy for the next round of Assembly elections in the first half of 2026 – in Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal – could be framed.

The Opposition party is also looking to up the ante over the repeal of the MGNREGA, and to construct a campaign around the issue.

Mallikarjun Kharge

'Murder of scheme'

This was not merely a case of renaming MGNREGA but the "systematic murder of the world's largest employment scheme", Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, speaking about the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill.

The Union government was taking away the right to work from people, and "there will be a nationwide movement against it", the Congress president said.

Manikrao Kokate steps down from Maharashtra Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A day after Maharashtra Minister Manikrao Kokate lost all his portfolios following an arrest warrant issued by the Nashik District and Sessions court, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis accepted his resignation and forwarded it to Governor Acharya Devvrat on Thursday.

He held the Ministries of Sports and Youth Affairs, Minority Affairs, and Waqf portfolios. He has been given two years' rigorous imprisonment in a 1995 case on forgery to obtain housing meant for Economically Weaker Sections.

A non-bailable warrant has been issued against Mr. Kokate and his brother, and the Bombay High Court has listed the hearing of his application for relief on Friday.

A team of three officials and 10 constables has left for Mumbai for Mr. Kokate's arrest, a senior police official said.

"Laws and rules hold the supreme position and are above any individual; in line with our party's longstanding stance, this resignation has been accepted and forwarded to the Chief Minister for further action," Mr. Kokate's party colleague and Nationalist Congress Party chief Ajit Pawar announced.

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E-Tender Enq. No. 691/P-1/EMP-13192 dtd: 15.12.2025

Dy. Chief Engineer / Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1), GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2025_POWER_155673_1 for For providing assistance to the regular staff for the operation of 4x 210 MW units at different locations of the plant round the clock in three shifts and during general duty hours at Operation Circle, GGSSTP, Rupnagar as per detailed scope of work On lump sum basis. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 16.12.25 from 05.00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

RTP-129/25 1079/12/2025-26/6023

ANDHRA UNIVERSITY VISAKHAPATNAM
Notice No. AU/(U1)R & D/RUSA 2.0/EQUIPMENT/2025, Dated:17-12-2025
TENDER NOTICE
Andhra University invites e-tenders for the **Procurement, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Maintenance, and Training** of Eight **(08) equipment** bundles at the Center of Excellence for Advanced Learning & Food and Drug Testing Laboratory under the **RUSA 2.0** scheme, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. Details regarding the e-tender can be obtained from the AP e-Procurement Portal: **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** Any addendum, corrigendum, or cancellation will also be posted on the said website. **Last date and time for e-tender submission: 07-01-2026, 05.00 PM.** Sd/- Registrar

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/34/2025 Date :17.12.2025
E- TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement insecticides for NVBDCP.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/INS-NVBDCP/RC/2025/031 dtd. 17/12/2025	2

The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 31.12.2025, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 03.01.2026 11.30 am. Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH, 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW.
No. ME-3/2025/3072 Lucknow : Dated 18/12/2025
TIME SCHEDULE FOR "SPECIAL STRAY VACANCY ROUND" OF UP NEET UG COUNSELING 2025 (M.B.B.S./B.D.S.)
In accordance with the schedule issued by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), New Delhi for the NEET UG course, the **schedule for the SPECIAL STRAY VACANCY ROUND** of online counseling for admission to state quota seats in undergraduate courses (MBBS/BDS) in government/private medical/dental colleges/institutions/medical universities is as follows :-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1.	Date of online registration and uploading of documents	**From:-** 19-12-2025 (05:00 PM) **To:-** 22-12-2025 (11:00 AM)	03 Days
2.	Date of depositing registration and security money	**From:-** 19-12-2025 (05:00 PM) **To:-** 22-12-2025 (02:00 PM)	03 Days
3.	Date of Merit List Declaration	**On:-** 22-12-2025	01 Days
4.	Date of On-line Choice filling	**From:-** 22-12-2025 (05:00 PM) **To:-** 26-12-2025 (11:00 AM)	04 Days
5.	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	**On:-** 26-12-2025	01 Days
6.	Date for downloading the allotment letters & Admission	**From:-** 27-12-2025 **To:-** 31-12-2025	05 Days

- As per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of U.P. NEET UG 2025, candidates should assess their eligibility themselves.
- Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling who have completed the online registration process, whose original documents have been verified online, and who have deposited the required security amount.
- The U.P. NEET UG 2025 information booklet (brochure) and important instructions are available on the websites www.upneet.in and www.dgme.up.gov.in, Keep checking websites regularly for updated information.
- The said counseling will be subject to the final orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad, Lucknow Bench, in Special Appeal No. 295/2025, Uttar Pradesh State & Others vs. Sabra Ahmad.

Helpline Numbers: 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700
DIRECTOR GENERAL

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

NIA arrests another key accused in Red Fort blast case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested another key accused in the Red Fort car bomb attack on Thursday. He was produced before a court, which sent him to the agency's custody till December 26. The car bomb went off near the Red Fort on November 10. Yasir Ahmed Dar is the ninth person to be arrested in the case. A resident of Shopian in Kashmir, the accused was picked up by the NIA in Delhi. According to the NIA, investigations have revealed that Yasir had an active role in the conspiracy behind the bomb blast. "An active participant in the conspiracy, he had sworn allegiance and taken an oath to carry out self-sacrificial operations...," it said.

SC recommends elevation of 5 judges as HC Chief Justices

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Thursday recommended the elevation of five judges as the Chief Justices of High Courts. Justice Manoj Gupta was proposed as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. Justice Revati P. Mohit Dere was recommended as the Meghalaya High Court Chief Justice. The Collegium has recommended the transfer of Justice Soumen Sen as Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court. Justice M.S. Sonak was recommended as the Jharkhand High Court Chief Justice. Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque has been proposed as the Sikkim High Court Chief Justice. Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo was proposed as Patna High Court Chief Justice.

'No direct link between air pollution and lung disease'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

There is no direct correlation between higher Air Quality Index (AQI) levels and lung diseases, with no 'conclusive data' to establish such a link, Minister of State for Environment and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

He, however, conceded that air pollution is one of the 'triggering factors' for respiratory ailments and associated diseases.

Mr. Singh was responding to a question from BJP parliamentarian Laxmikant Bajpayee, who has a degree in Ayurveda. He sought to know if the government was 'aware' of studies and medical tests that linked "prolonged hazardous AQI levels" in Delhi/ National Capital Region to lung fibrosis, and an irreversible reduction in lung capacity. He also wanted to know if the lung elasticity of citizens of Delhi/ NCR had reduced by half compared to that of residents in cities with 'good' AQI levels; and if the government had any 'solution' to save Delhi residents from pulmonary fibrosis, COPD, emphysema, reduced lung function and continuously declining lung elasticity.

Allahabad HC orders grant of protection to 12 live-in couples

'Living together without marriage cannot be termed an offence, no one can object to, and cause a hindrance to, peaceful existence of the couples'

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Stating that the concept of a live-in relationship may not be acceptable to all, but such relationships are not illegal, the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday ordered the Uttar Pradesh police to provide protection to 12 live-in couples allegedly threatened by their families.

The Bench of Justice Vivek Kumar Singh, who was hearing the petitions filed by 12 women from different parts of the State, stated that it cannot be said that living together without the sanctity of marriage constitutes an offence.

The court cited the example of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, which says that a woman who is in a domestic relationship has been provided protection, maintenance, etc. But the act has not used the word "wife".

"Once an individual, who is a major, has chosen his/her partner, it is not for any other person, be it a family member, to object and cause a hindrance to their peaceful existence. It is the bounden duty of the State, as per the Constitutional obligations cast upon it, to protect the life and liberty of every citizen," the court said.

> Once an individual, who is a major, has chosen his/her partner, it is not for any other person, be it a family member, to object and cause a hindrance to their peaceful existence
> ALLAHABAD HC

It is the duty of the State to protect the life and liberty of every citizen, the High Court says

It added that the right to human life is to be treated on a much higher pedestal, regardless of a citizen being minor or major, married or unmarried, and due to the mere fact that the petitioners have not solemnised marriage, would not deprive them of their fundamental rights.

The court also cited Section 114 of the Indian Evidence Act/Section 119(1) of Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, which states that if couples live together for a significant amount of time, they will be presumed to be married.

"The courts shall apply this presumption to protect the rights of the parties in a live-in relationship, i.e. women and the children born as a result thereof," it added.

Sahitya Akademi cancels awards announcement

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Confusion prevailed on Thursday when the Sahitya Akademi was forced to cancel a press conference called by it to announce its annual literary awards following a directive from the Union Ministry of Culture.

The press conference was scheduled to be held at 3 p.m. in Delhi after a meeting of the Executive Board of the literary body, which cleared the awardees. But minutes before it began, it was announced that the press meet had been cancelled and the awards process put on hold.

The Culture Ministry had sent a note to the Akademi, reminding it of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with all four autonomous institutions under it, namely, the National School of Drama, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Lalit Kala Akademi, and the Sahitya Akademi, that an exercise of restructuring of awards needed to be taken in consultation with the Ministry. The MoU was signed in July.

"This is to invite your attention to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Academies and the Ministry for the year 2025-26, wherein it has been stipulated that the exercise of restructuring of awards is required to be undertaken in consultation with the Ministry. In this regard, you are requested to inform this Ministry of the measures taken so far," the note, a copy of which is with *The Hindu*, said.

The Ministry further directed that "till such time the restructuring process is duly approved by the Ministry, no process for declaration of awards shall be undertaken without the prior approval of the Ministry". The note was sent to all four autonomous culture bodies on Thursday.

The note was necessitated as the press conference had been called without the Ministry's knowledge, and without the approval of the due process for the selection of awardees, sources in the Ministry of Culture told *The Hindu*.

The MoUs for restructuring had been signed in line with the restructuring of awards across the board being undertaken under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the sources said.

Sahitya Akademi gives awards each year to books in 24 languages.

SC considers passive euthanasia for 31-year-old

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked to meet the parents of a 31-year-old man lying in a comatose condition for 13 years while contemplating their plea for passive euthanasia by withdrawing artificial life support for him.

"It is a very sad report. We cannot keep this boy in this stage," Justice J.B. Pardiwala, accompanied by Justice K.V. Viswanathan, addressed the family's counsel, advocate Rashmi Nandakumar, and Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati.

The court's comment came after perusing the report of a secondary medical board, headed by an AIIMS team of doctors, containing 31-year-old Harish Rana's medical history.

SC declines urgent hearing of plea on MCD's 'inhumane' stray dog rules

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to entertain a plea seeking the urgent listing of a *suo motu* case to monitor stray dog-bite incidents, even as the petitioners flagged concerns that recent regulations proposed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) could result in the "inhumane" treatment of canines.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for a petitioner, apprised a Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta that the special three-judge Bench scheduled to hear the case on Thursday had not assembled. Justice Nath clarified that the matter would now be taken up for hearing on January 7, 2026.

The apex court's Nov. 7 order directs authorities to remove stray dogs from public areas and relocate them to shelters. FILE PHOTO

Pressing for an early hearing, Mr. Sibal submitted that, pursuant to the apex court's November 7, 2025 order directing municipal authorities to remove stray dogs from public premises and relocate them to designated shelters after sterilisation and vaccination, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had framed sweeping regulations. He contended that these were contrary to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023 framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

"The problem is that the MCD, in the meantime, has framed some rules which are completely contrary.... What is being done is very, very inhuman," he said.

Justice Nath, however, declined to intervene immediately.

The municipal authorities were likely to implement the regulations even before the next hearing, Mr. Sibal added, and cautioned that they were proceeding without adequate infrastructure, including sufficient dog shelters. "They will be implementing it, and they will be removing the dogs. They don't have shelters," he said.

Justice Mehta observed that the court would place the question of "humanity" in perspective on the next date of hearing. "On the next date, we will play a video for your benefit and ask you what humanity is," he said.

Mr. Sibal said that the petitioners would also be prepared with footage illustrating what was unfolding after the implementation of the regulations.

'900 million people will have diabetes by 2050, strong steps needed to slow progression'

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

In its projections for 2050, the 11th edition of the International Diabetes Federation's *Diabetes Atlas* has calculated that from around 500 million people living with diabetes in 2024, the number will grow to nearly 900 million people between the ages of 20 and 79.

Publishing the key results as an article in the peer-reviewed journal *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinal 2025*, the authors, who are scientists collaborating across the world, pointed out that in 2024, that figure was 11.11% of the population and just over 580 million adults. As per their projections, diabetes will affect 12.96% of the population – over 850 million people – in 2050. In the paper, Irini Genitsaridi and other researchers say, "As the diabetes epidemic has continued unchecked since the turn of the millenium, stronger efforts are needed to slow down progression." A total of 210 countries and five territories were included in the study.

Middle income countries will have the highest prevalence of diabetes, says the study.

In 2024, more people with diabetes were living in urban areas (400 million) than in rural areas (189 million). The authors state that this trend would continue with the projection for 2050 for urban centres (655 million), but in rural areas, it is likely to remain almost the same (198 million) in 2050.

A. Ramachandran, one of the authors of the paper, from the India Diabetes Research Foundation, says "one of the unique features of this year's Atlas, is the table listing the top 10 countries of the world with diabetes load. China is right at the top of the table with about 148 million people with diabetes, and India comes up second on the table, with nearly 90 million. The United States comes third, and Pakistan, fourth.

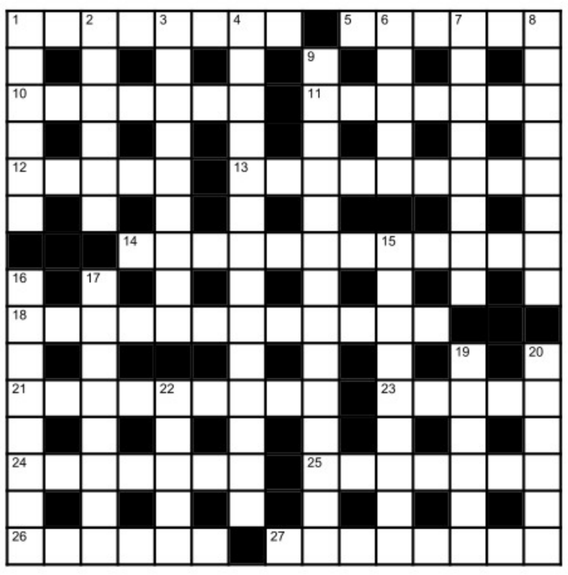
In 2050, while China and India will maintain their top positions on the table, it is projected that Pakistan will climb to the third slot.

TH CROSSWORD + 14669

(set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Wild cat back-biting workers from company, say (8)
5 Start with Buenos Aires randomly in this country (6)
10 Red mark allowed (7)
11 Watch two tennis shots - first missing top line (7)
12 Fish eating - Yankee is making it up (5)
13 Silence over hidden past - it's coined for a single occasion (5,4)
14 Work undone, setter under attack (12)
18 Unearths true form of a game (8,4)
21 Follow a genetic code - otherwise amuse to a sickening degree (2,7)
23 Two points within a point - go back to country (5)
24 A mineral recovered with sun spray... (7)
25 ...brings them together provided that is during sunset (7)
26 Meets as one finally escapes (6)
27 Borders of cloth, strangely no sign of knots (8)

Down

1 Take stock stealthily, find way to break law (6)
2 Last string on musical instrument strung up for free (6)
3 Poor Germans accept half lies from those who slander (9)
4 New route, only twice changed? No way! (3,2,4,5)
6 Even extremities, girl will follow (5)
7 Reveals fish inside parallel lines (3,5)
8 Account of stake holding, criminal code (8)
9 Use noun with method - not happy? (4,2,3,5)
15 Dignifying good French upbringing, it's evergreen (9)
16 A salt say grabbing attention (8)
17 She feeds babies that are very small, taking turns somehow (3-5)
19 Could be doing after I get a dye (6)
20 Lay up is for awareness (6)
22 To end it all, you keep this one, don't be angry (5)

SUDOKU

5	6			2		9		3
					5			
		8	1				7	
4	9							
	8		3		7		6	
							2	7
	2				1	7		
			6					
9		3		8			4	1

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

A	L	T	E	R	C	A	T	I	O	N		S	O	W
G		R		O		N		M		A		H		I
A	D	I	E	U		E	N	P	A	S	S	A	N	T
R		L		S		M		A		T		M		H
A	L	B	A	T	R	O	S	S		I	N	A	N	E
G		I				N		S		N		N		R
A	C	E	T	O	N	E		E	D	E	N			
R		S		N					S		I		B	
			S	T	U	N		A	R	S	E	N	A	L
F		P		H		A		R				D		U
O	M	A	N	I		P	A	S	S	E	R	I	N	E
R		R		N		H		E		S		G		E
B	A	D	M	I	N	T	O	N			T	E	E	N	Y
I		O		C		H		I		O		N		E
D	I	N		E	M	A	N	C	I	P	A	T	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	3	7	5	1	8	6	2	4
2	6	8	4	7	3	1	9	5
1	5	4	6	2	9	8	3	7
6	1	9	8	5	4	3	7	2
3	8	5	2	9	7	4	1	6
4	7	2	3	6	1	9	5	8
8	9	1	7	4	5	2	6	3
5	2	3	1	8	6	7	4	9
7	4	6	9	3	2	5	8	1

FAITH

Hanuman's guidance

Desire is the one force that a person has to control to overcome temptation in various forms on earth. It calls for tremendous inner strength, moral courage, as exemplified by Hanuman. Hanuman's outstanding feature is his devotion to Rama. Revered for his courage, mental fortitude, control over his senses, his problem-solving ability, and above all, beloved of Rama, everyone prays to Hanuman for courage and guidance, said Damal S Ramakrishnan.

Once Hanuman met Him, he had no other interest in the world, except serving Rama, setting an example for all devotees on total surrender to God. As he undertook the task of finding Sita (abducted by Ravana) and flew to Sri Lanka after being tipped by Sampati, Hanuman was like an arrow from Rama's bow: unerringly finding the target. Wandering around Ravana's palace, and unable to spot Sita, Hanuman chanted Rama namam. Forthwith, he was in Ashoka Vanam (forest) where Sita was held captive; proof that dharma protects those who uphold it. When Hanuman saw her for the first time, Ravana was just leaving the grove after pressuring Sita to forget Rama and accept him. As Sita stood forlorn, Hanuman showed presence of mind by narrating the Ramayana: a rare occurrence, with Hanuman being the first to discourse upon it and Sita, the first to listen to it. Wary of trusting anyone, Sita is convinced that he is Rama's messenger. Hanuman proved that placing faith in Rama namam and surrendering to Him completely without getting sidetracked, is the reward for any quest, however difficult the task maybe. Hanuman has shown by example how to live in this material world and remain close to God.

INBRIEF

FinMin unveils new logo for Regional Rural Banks

The Finance Ministry on Thursday unveiled a new logo for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to signify a single and unified brand identity. On the principle of 'One State One RRB', the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, has consolidated 26 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) across 11 States/Union Territories, effective from May 1, 2025. The reform marks a crucial step toward building stronger and more efficient RRBs. PTI

MTAR Tech bags ₹310 crore order for civil nuke reactors

MTAR Technologies has secured a ₹310 crore order from Megha Engineering & Infrastructures for supply of various equipment for the Kaiga 5 and Kaiga 6 civil nuclear reactors. On the schedule, the company said the deliveries will be staggered up to February 2030. "We look forward to strong growth in this segment, backed by a robust order book and favourable industry outlook," MTAR Managing Director Parvat Srinivas Reddy said.

Cyient to acquire majority stake in U.S. firm for $93 mn

Cyient Semiconductors on Wednesday said it will be acquiring, through a subsidiary, a majority stake in U.S. firm Kinetic Technologies for $93 million. Cyient Semiconductors Singapore, the subsidiary, has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a majority stake exceeding 65%.The combination will establish a scaled platform in the more than $40 billion power semiconductor market, accelerating Cyient Semiconductors' growth trajectory, it said.

FM tables Securities Market Code Bill 2025 in Lok Sabha

The Bill, which seeks to unify three laws governing the securities market, has been referred to the Standing Committee on Finance for review

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday tabled the Securities Market Code Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha.

The Bill, which seeks to unify three laws governing securities market, was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance for review.

The Bill proposes to consolidate the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992, and the Depositories Act, 1996.

The move was announced in the Union Budget in 2021-22 and the Bill has now been tabled to rationalise and consolidate the existing provisions, and provides a modern regulatory framework for investor protection and capital mobilisation at scale, according to the statement of objectives in the Bill.

As per the Bill, the government proposes to increase the number of members in SEBI to 15 from the current nine, including the Chairperson.

This will include the Chairperson, two officers appointed by the Central Government and one from the RBI as ex-officio members, and 11 others, of whom at least five will be whole-time members. Currently there are three whole-time members.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in Lok Sabha during the Winter session of Parliament on Thursday. PTI

In another significant change, Union Government also proposed to decriminalise violations of "minor, procedural and technical nature" into civil penalties to "facilitate the ease of doing business and to reduce the compliance burden."

Civil penalties

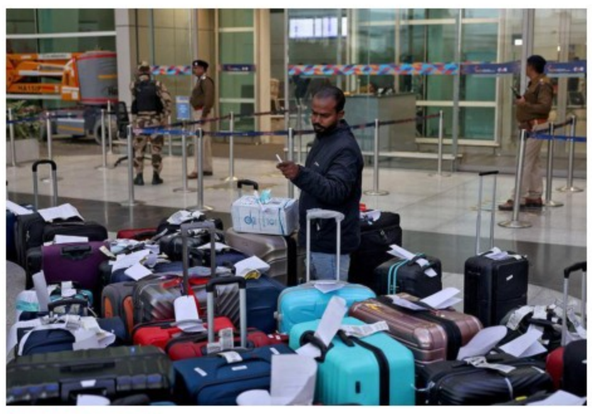
The Bill, if enacted in its current form, would bring "unlawful gains or losses" under civil penalties and limit punishments only to cases of market abuse such as insider trading or trading while in possession of material or non-public information. Further, in the case of contravention of any rules or provisions of the code, no inspection can be done if eight years had passed from the date of contravention. The Bill also mandates that the members of the board disclose any direct or indirect interests before making a decision to eliminate conflict of interest.

"These changes appear to be made in keeping with extant requirements balancing faster adjudication processes with the need for better deterrence," said Paras Parekh, Partner at CMS INDUSLAW.

Even as the Bill was being introduced, DMK MP Arun Nehru and Congress' Manish Tewari opposed it saying it gave excessive powers to a single body, which was against the principle of the separation of powers.

Responding to this, Ms. Sitharaman said that since the government was referring it to the standing committee, such details could be discussed by the panel.

(With inputs from Sreeparna Chakrabarty)


Troubled times: IndiGo had cancelled nearly 5,000 flights in the first 9 days of December, impacting 12.5 lakh passengers. REUTERS

CCI launches probe against IndiGo after plaints over disruptions

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Thursday said it had initiated an inquiry against IndiGo following complaints it had received against the airline over the recent disruptions.

"The CCI has taken cognisance of information filed against IndiGo in the context of the recent disruptions witnessed in the aviation sector, across various routes. Based on the initial assessment, the commission has decided to proceed further in the matter in accordance with the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002," the regulator said in a press statement. It, however, did not mention the number of complaints it had received against IndiGo, or the aspects the inquiry would explore.

The Hindu sent a questionnaire to CCI Chairperson Ravneet Kaur, which remained unanswered till the time of going to press.

IndiGo had cancelled nearly 5,000 flights in the first nine days of December that impacted at least 12.5 lakh passengers.

A Bengaluru-based lawyer, who requested not to be identified since he had not yet received a formal acknowledgment from the CCI, claimed to be one of those who had filed a complaint against IndiGo before the anti trust body.

'Abuse of position'

He told *The Hindu* that his Delhi-Bengaluru flight was cancelled by the airline and the tickets offered for travel on December 7 were at a much higher price, which amounted to "abuse of its dominant position in the market."

The airline's market share of nearly 42% in January 2019 has grown today to 65.7% market share, amidst the collapse of Jet Airways and Go First.

Air India, in the second spot in the market, has a market share of 25.7%.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,481	-0.09
US Dollar	90.20	0.19
Brent oil	60.23	0.35

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2229.30	-3.20
Adani Ports	1495.70	9.40
Apollo Hosp	6918.50	-3.00
Asian Paints	2759.70	-26.00
Axis Bank	1229.80	5.10
Bajaj Auto	8831.00	-64.00
Bajaj Finserv	2026.30	5.10
Bajaj Finance	1000.30	0.70
Bharat Elec	383.45	-2.15
Bharti Airtel	2092.00	-16.00
Cipla	1498.90	2.00
Coal India	385.30	0.55
Dr Reddys Lab	1280.00	8.00
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7106.50	-28.00
Eternal Ltd.	284.75	0.30
Grasim Ind	2807.60	1.00
HCL Tech	1661.40	6.40
HDFC Bank	979.70	-4.30
HDFC Life	757.00	3.50
Hindalco	856.70	7.90
Hind Unilever	2265.50	-10.10
ICICI Bank	1356.80	4.40
IntGlobeAvi	5115.50	135.00
Infosys	1626.80	24.80
ITC	400.40	0.60
Jio Financial Servic-es Ltd.	292.30	-0.85
JSW Steel	1082.20	2.90
Kotak Bank	2164.60	-8.60
L&T	4031.10	-31.30
M&M	3586.60	-26.20
Maruti Suzuki	16329.00	-69.00
Max Healthcare	1048.50	17.40
NestleIndia	1233.50	-1.10
NTPC	318.50	-2.75
ONGC	232.00	-0.91
PowerGrid Corp	257.95	-3.15
Reliance Ind	1544.40	0.00
SBI Life	2014.40	4.20
State Bank	977.55	1.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	869.45	5.25
Sun Pharma	1745.90	-47.00
TataConsumerPro-duct	1171.50	-8.30
Tata Steel	168.12	-2.22
TCS	3280.80	63.00
Tech Mahindra	1605.60	26.20
Titan	3919.30	11.40
Tata Motors PV	345.80	-0.55
Trent Ltd.	4030.00	-15.20
UltraTech Cement	11461.00	-79.00
Wipro	263.85	2.71

ICICI Bank gets ₹238 cr. GST demand notice

ICICI Bank on Thursday said tax authorities have slapped a demand notice of ₹238 crore on it for alleged short payment of Goods and Services Tax (GST). PTI

Exporters to gain on near duty-free access to Oman, says FIEO

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) would strengthen India's export competitiveness across goods and services, enhance professional mobility, and support inclusive and employment-led growth, The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said in its initial comment after signing of the deal.

"The CEPA secures unprecedented market access for Indian exports, with zero-duty access on 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports by value,"

'This pact will benefit labour-intensive sectors'.

said S. C. Ralhan, President, FIEO.

"This will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Indian goods and benefit key labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery and sports goods."

Sun shares drop after U.S. FDA classifies Gujarat plant as OAI

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

OAI status implies regulatory and/or administrative actions are recommended

Shares of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries closed 2.77% lower on Thursday at ₹1,745.35 apiece on the BSE after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) classified the company's facility in Baska, Gujarat, as Official Action Indicated (OAI) following the inspection it conducted from September 8 to 19.

OAI status implies regulatory and/or administrative actions are recommended. "We continue to manufacture and supply approved products from the facility to the U.S. market... will work with the regulator to achieve fully compliant status," the company said.

The OAI is one of three classifications the U.S. FDA issues post facility inspection. Voluntary Action Indicated is another, which means objectionable conditions or practices were found but the agency is not prepared to take action. No action indicated is the third classification which means no objectionable conditions/ practices were found during inspection.

'Combined NPS AUM went past ₹16 lakh crore in October'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Pension System (NPS) subscriber base has grown significantly, crossing 90 million by October while combined Assets Under Management (AUM) along with Atal Pension Yojana crossed ₹16 lakh crore, said PFRDA, (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) Chairperson Sivasubramanian Ramann.

PFRDA was committed to the vision of a pensioned society, ensuring pension coverage reached all sections of the private sector, he said adding the authority had a target to bring in 25 crore private-sector citizens under the pension net over five years.

Sivasubramanian Ramann

Several steps

"Over the last six months, PFRDA has undertaken several measures to enhance subscriber flexibility, organised awareness programmes across 30 Tier-II and Tier-III cities, and plans to expand outreach to 100 cities by March 2026," he added.

PFRDA was focusing on key segments such as platform workers, agripreneurs and MSMEs. The efforts were complemented by strengthening distribution channels, including the introduction of the Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF).

Later, he told the media, NPS consistently delivered competitive returns since inception with even the composite scheme carrying only 15% equity exposure generating returns of over 9%, reinforcing NPS as a robust and reliable retirement solution.

Shashwat Sharma to take over as Bharti CEO

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel Ltd. chief executive officer-designate Shashwat Sharma, currently the chief operating officer, will take over the firm's reins as CEO on January 1, the telco announced.

"In line with the planned succession, Gopal Vittal will move into the role of executive vice-chairman of Bharti Airtel on the 1st of January 2026 overseeing Bharti Airtel and all its subsidiaries," Bharti said. He helmed the telco through some of the most turbulent times for the telecom sector.

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
Estate Branch, Krishi Nagar,
Dharwad - 580 005. Phone : 0836 - 2214291,
E-mail : spo@uasd.in

No. : Ex.O./E.O./Tender E-proc-13/2025-26 Date : 13-12-2025

Tender Notification (Through E-procurement Portal)

University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad is inviting tender for **Procurement of Lab / Scientific Equipments, Agricultural Implements etc.**, through E-procurement Portal. The registered, Eligible authorized suppliers are requested to visit the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and download the documents for participation in the tender.

Last Date & Time for receipt of Tender : 05-01-2026 (Monday) till 4.00 p.m. Other Schedule of Events can be availed in the E-Portal.

Tenderers need to register with E-procurement Portal of Govt. of Karnataka B'lore, **For details of registration Please Contact Phone No. : 080 - 4601 0000.** Bidders are requested to get updated with the corrigendum / addendum (if any) issued online at the following link in the entire Tender Process **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

For more details please contact 0836 - 2214291 during Office hours.

Sd/- Estate Officer, UAS, Dharwad.

DIPR/Dharwad/1002/Manipal/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 26/2025–26/2745–49 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17–12–2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ – 2, 3 & 4 ರನ್ವಯ ಏಕಲಕೋಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ, ಸೋಮವಾರಪೇಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಿರಾಜಪೇಟೆ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054–ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸೇತುವೆಗಳು, 3054–ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು–6 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 29034, 27427, 27681, 22294, 29770) ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 34.64 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ರೂ. 116.90 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–12–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ.

Bank of Maharashtra (A Government of India Enterprise)
BENGALURU ZONAL OFFICE
No. 465/A, First Floor, Opp to NMKRV College, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 011.

PREMISES REQUIRED ON RENT

Bank of Maharashtra requires suitable premises preferably on Ground Floor with appropriate frontage and sufficient Parking Space on Lease Basis for Opening / Shifting of Branches. The premises requires as below.

Centre Name	Dist. Name	Pin Code	Approx Carpet Area Required
Bannergatta Road	Bengaluru Urban	560083	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Jalahalli	Bengaluru Urban	560015	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Varthur	Bengaluru Urban	560087	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Electronic City	Bengaluru Urban	560100	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Anjanapura	Bengaluru Urban	560109	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Gottigere Main Road, Bengaluru	Bengaluru Urban	560076	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Gandhi Nagar	Bengaluru Urban	560009	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
Hoskote	Bengaluru Rural	562114	900 to 1200 Sq. Ft.
Channapattana H B Colony, Hassan	Hassan	573201	1200 to 1500 Sq. Ft.
B M Road, Hassan	Hassan	573202	1200 to 1500 Sq. Ft.
Gubbi Gate, Tumkur	Tumakuru	572101	1200 to 1500 Sq. Ft.
J C Road, Tumkur	Tumakuru	572101	1200 to 1500 Sq. Ft.

The proposed premises should be in an approved building conforming to the conditions stipulated by the Govt. Authorities for commercial use. The owner will obtain NOC, if required from the concerned authority/ies for commercial use. Interested owners having clear title to the premises may submit their sealed offers in the prescribed format in two bids system i.e. 1) Technical Bid, 2) Commercial Bid in two separate sealed envelopes and the format of bid can be downloaded from our website **www.bankofmaharashtra.in** under Tender section or can be obtained in person from the above mentioned office address.
Interested owners having clear title over the property may submit their sealed offers in two - bid system by **25/12/2025 time 5:00 PM**. Offers with incomplete details / information and received after last date and time are liable for rejection.
Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons what so ever. Offers received from other than owners will not be considered. Offers from brokers will not be considered. For any further details contact us at **gad_ban@mahabank.co.in/staff_ban@mahabank.co.in, Ph. No: 9164111081 / 8838394957 Offers to be submitted to: The Zonal Manager, Bank of Maharashtra**, Bengaluru Zonal Office, No.465/A, 1st Floor, Opp. to NMKRV College for Women, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar. Bengaluru-560011.

Date: 19/12/2025 **Sd/- Zonal Manager**
Place: Bengaluru **Bank of Maharashtra, Bengaluru Zone.**

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State.

No.: V.T.U./BGM/S.A.P./CW1/38/T-733/2025-26/4860 Date: 18-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites (Two Cover Systems) E-tenders for the following Work through E-procurement Tendering mode. **Name of Work : Tender for Setup of Centre of Excellence in Reverse Engineering, ADAS and Digital Twin at VTU, Belagavi. Amount put to Tender : Rs. 4,94,16,332/-, EMD : Rs. 7,41,250/-. Tender Pre-Bid Meeting Date : 24-12-2025 at 11.00 a.m. through Online. Last Date for Receipt of Tender : 16-01-2026 up to 2.30 p.m. Date of Opening of Tender : 17-01-2026 at 4.00 p.m.** The details regarding participation in the E-Tendring can be accessed by logging to our **VTU Website : www.vtu.ac.in** and E-procurement Portal **Website : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Registrar. V.T.U., Belagavi,

DIPR/Belagavi/1496/Manipal/2025-26

INNOVATE KARNATAKA · K-tech

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Tender number: ITBTST/2025-26/SE0040

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, Information Technology & Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka, invites Proposals for Empanelment of Public Relations and Social Media Management Agency to serve the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)..

The interested agencies are required to download the electronic copy of the Request for Proposals and upload the proposal (in PDF format) on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in through the bidder's Digital Signature Centre (DSC).

Any notices/information related to this Request for Proposals in the future shall be available on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only.

The application period starts on **December 19, 2025** and ends on **January 19, 2026, at 4:00 P.M.** Please refer to the Request for Proposals document for eligibility criteria and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-2223-1006/8
E-mail: gm4kits@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/4519/AKAR/2025-26

MOSCOW

Ukrainian drone attacks kill three in Russia's Rostov, say authorities

REUTERS

Ukrainian drone attacks overnight Thursday killed three people in Russia's Rostov region, the regional governor said. An attack caused a fire on a cargo ship in the port of the regional capital, killing two crew members and injuring three. A civilian was also killed and six others injured in the town of Bataysk. AFP

SINGAPORE

Bangladesh 2024 uprising leader dies of injuries in Singapore

AFP

A leader of Bangladesh's 2024 uprising who was wounded in an assassination attempt and flown to Singapore for treatment has died in the city-state, officials said on Friday. "Despite the best efforts of the doctors..., Mr. (Sharif Osman) Hadi succumbed to his injuries," Singapore's Foreign Affairs Ministry said. AFP

STOCKHOLM

Assange files plaint against Nobel Foundation over Machado's win

AP

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has filed a criminal complaint in Sweden against the Nobel Foundation after Venezuelan leader Maria Corina Machado won the Peace Prize. This year's prize represented a "gross misappropriation" of funds and the "facilitation of war crimes", according to the complaint. AFP

LOS ANGELES

Pulitzer Prize-winning war reporter Peter Arnett dies aged 91

AFP

Peter Arnett, the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter who spent decades dodging bullets and bombs to bring the world eyewitness accounts of war from the rice paddies of Vietnam to the deserts of Iraq, has died on Wednesday, said his son Andrew Arnett. He was 91. He had been suffering from prostate cancer. AP

U.S. announces $10 billion in arms sales to Taiwan; China slams move

If approved by Congress, it would be the largest-ever U.S. arms package to the island; it includes 82 HIMARS systems, 420 ATACMS and 60 self-propelled howitzers; China says the U.S. decision would undermine its security and regional stability

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has announced a massive package of arms sales to Taiwan valued at more than $10 billion that includes medium-range missiles, howitzers and drones, drawing an angry response from China.

The State Department announced the sales late Wednesday during a nationally televised address by the Republican President, who made scant mention of foreign policy issues and did not speak about China or Taiwan. U.S.-Chinese tensions have ebbed and flowed during Mr. Trump's second term, largely over trade and tariffs but also over China's increasing aggressiveness toward Taiwan, which Beijing has said must reunify with the mainland.

Weapons support: Taiwan's Defence Ministry expressed gratitude to the U.S. for supporting its defence capabilities. AFP

If approved by Congress, it would be the largest-ever U.S. weapons package to Taiwan, exceeding the total amount of $8.4 billion in U.S. arms sales to Taiwan during President Joe Biden's Democratic administration.

The eight arms sales agreements announced on Wednesday cover 82 high-mobility artillery rocket systems, or HIMARS, and 420 Army Tactical Missile Systems, or ATACMS – similar to what the U.S. had been providing Ukraine during the Biden administration to defend itself from Russia – worth more than $4 billion. They also include 60 self-propelled howitzer systems and related equipment worth more than $4 billion and drones valued at more than $1 billion.

Other sales in the package include military software valued at more than $1 billion, Javelin and TOW missiles worth more than $700 million, helicopter spare parts worth $96 million and refurbishment kits for Harpoon missiles worth $91 million.

The eight sales agreements amount to $11.15 billion, according to Taiwan's Defence Ministry, which in a statement on Thursday expressed gratitude to the U.S. over the arms sale.

China's Foreign Ministry attacked the move, saying it would violate diplomatic agreements between China and the U.S.; gravely harm China's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity; and undermine regional stability.

Don't make 'fatal mistake' in Venezuela: Russia to U.S.

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia on Thursday called on Donald Trump's administration not to make a "fatal mistake" in the Venezuela crisis, calling for restraint and saying it was in "constant contact" with its ally Caracas.

U.S. President Donald Trump ordered a blockade of sanctioned oil tankers in Venezuela this week, marking a new escalation between Washington and the South American country led President Nicolas Maduro.

Venezuela has insisted its crude oil exports were not impacted by the announcement, showing defiance.

Mr. Maduro is a friend of the Kremlin's and has been a regular guest in Moscow for years.

Dmitry Peskov

Russia's Foreign Ministry said it hoped the White House will "not allow a fatal mistake and will refrain from further sliding into a situation that threatens unpredictable consequences for the entire Western hemisphere".

It called for a "de-escalation" and expressed support for Maduro's government. The Kremlin said it was in "constant contact" with its "ally and partner" Venezuela.

"We, of course, call on all countries of the region to show restraint in order to avoid any unpredictable development in the situation," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

It is unclear how the blockade will play out, with U.S. warships in the Caribbean.

Potential attack

In his announcement earlier this week, Mr. Trump also said "Venezuela is completely surrounded by the largest Armada ever assembled in the History of South America" – raising fears of a potential U.S. intervention.

The Kremlin has in the past helped prop up Venezuela's economy. Russian leader Vladimir Putin reaffirmed his support to Mr. Maduro in a phone call earlier this month.

Israel hits Lebanon as deadline looms to disarm Hezbollah

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Israel carried out a series of air strikes on southern and northeastern Lebanon on Thursday as a deadline looms to disarm the militant Hezbollah group along the countries' tense frontier.

The strikes came a day before a meeting of the committee monitoring the enforcement of a U.S.-brokered ceasefire that halted the latest war between Israel and Hezbollah a year ago.

The gathering on Friday will be the second meeting of the mechanism after Israel and Lebanon appointed civilian members to a previously military-only committee. The group also includes the United States, France and the UN peacekeeping force deployed along the border.

Smoke rises from the site of a series of Israeli air strikes in a southern Lebanese village. AFP

The latest Israel-Hezbollah war began on October 8, 2023.

Outages in Sudan after drone attack strikes power plant

Agence France-Presse
PORT SUDAN

Sudan paramilitaries launched a large-scale drone attack in the east on Thursday, a military source said, with strikes hitting a key power station, causing outages and killing three.

Since April 2023, Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been locked in a conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced millions more and devastated infrastructure.

The attacks "led to power outages in several states", the national electricity company stated.

In recent months, the RSF has been accused of launching drone attacks on vast areas controlled by the army, targeting civilian infrastructure and causing power cuts affecting millions.

"At dawn this morning, the militia launched 35 drones against the cities of Atbara, Al-Damer and Berber in River Nile State, targeting civilian infrastructure," a military source said on condition of anonymity, attributing the strikes to the RSF.

The damaged power station is a strategic hub in the Sudanese electricity grid, receiving power generated by the Merowe Dam.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR

No. : NIT/2025-26/29796 - 805 Date : 18/12/2025

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 572/2025-26

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनु. लागत (रु.)
External Development work (Roads, Parking Shed, Horticulture, Landscaping, Signages and Misc. works) and Renovation works at District Hospital, Sri Ganganagar. UBN: RRC2526WLRC01028	560.67 Lakh

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in तथा http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।

महाप्रबंधक

राजस्थान युवा बोर्ड

(युवा मामले एवं खेल विभाग, राजस्थान सरकार)

सवाई मानसिंह स्टेडियम, प्रथम तल, जयपुर टेलीफैक्स 0141-2741489

क्रमांक :- F.01(15)RYB/2025-26/00021-7863630 जयपुर, दिनांक :- 15/12/2025

शुद्धि पत्र संख्या - 1

"राजस्थान युवा महोत्सव" का भव्य एवं सफल आयोजन हेतु इवेन्ट मैनेजमेंट (EVENT MANAGEMENT) के सम्पूर्ण कार्य हेतु दक्ष, प्रतिष्ठित व अनुभवी फर्मों/संस्था/कंम्पनी से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया द्वारा ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 05/2025–26, दिनांक 15.12.2025 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की गई है, जिसमें आंशिक संशोधन कर दिनांक 18.12.2025 दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जा रही है। संशोधन का पूर्ण विवरण राजस्थान युवा बोर्ड, जयपुर की वेबसाईट **www.youthboard.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं लोक उपापन पोर्टल **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** व ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।

राज.संवाद/सी/25/15928 सदस्य सचिव

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

NOTICE

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER

(RFP No. AHC/Recruitment/01/2025)

In reference to the **Tender Document/RFP No. AHC/Recruitment/01/2025 dated 08.12.2025** for Engaging Agency for Conducting Recruitment in the Establishment of High Court, a Corrigendum has been issued. Detailed information regarding the Corrigendum is available on the official website of the High Court at **http://www.allahabadhighcourt.in**

Sd/-
Registrar General

Thai jets bomb building in Cambodia's border casino hub injuring 2 civilians

Agence France-Presse
PHNOM PENH

Thailand on Thursday bombed a building in a Cambodian casino town and major crossing between the two nations, as foreign powers pressured them to halt reignited border clashes.

Thai fighter jets dropped three bombs in an area of Poipet city, a bustling casino hub popular with Thai gamblers, on Thursday morning, the Cambodian Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The attack damaged a warehouse and other property, leaving two civilians with minor injuries, it said.

Thai air force spokesperson Jackkrit Thammavichai told presspersons the strike destroyed a "logistics centre" used to store rockets. "These are facilities that have been used for military purposes."

Infrastructure hit: A garage damaged after Thai air strikes in Poipet town of Banteay Meanchey province in Cambodia. AFP

The renewed fighting between the Southeast Asian neighbours this month has killed at least 21 people in Thailand and 18 in Cambodia, while displacing more than 8 lakh, officials said.

The conflict stems from a territorial dispute over the colonial-era demarcation of their 800-km border and a smattering of ancient temple ruins situated on the frontier.

Each side has blamed the other for instigating the fresh fighting and traded accusations of attacks on civilians.

Border closure

Thailand said on Tuesday that between 5,000 and 6,000 Thai nationals remained stranded in Poipet after Cambodia closed its land border crossings with its neighbour.

Cambodia's Interior Ministry said the border closures were a "necessary measure" to reduce risks to civilians amid the ongoing combat, adding that air travel remained an option for those seeking to leave.

THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU

REWIND 2025

TRIVIA QUIZ

DAY 14

1. Who became the first-ever Indian to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, announced as part of the Class of 2026?

2. A new blood group antigen discovered in a 38-year-old woman in Bengaluru has been officially recognised by the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory as part of the Cromer system. What is this newly identified antigen called?

3. Which government app—used for reporting suspicious calls, viewing numbers linked to a user, and blocking stolen phones—was ordered to be pre-installed on all smartphones but later clarified as optional for users to keep or delete?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **bit.ly/Rewind2024TriviaQuiz** take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Sin goods
2. High Seas Treaty
3. Dhanush

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Muthulakshmi.R, Madurai | 2. Anitha Arjun, Kollam | 3. Priyadarshi Das, Kolkatta

BIG CALL

Will review scheduling matches in North India during winter: Shukla

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

After the cancellation of the fourth T20I between India and South Africa at Lucknow due to excessive fog, BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla said the board will review scheduling of matches between December 15 and January 15 in North India, following which it would be determined if the fixtures have to be shifted.

NOT A CHOICE ANYMORE

Workload management a necessity for Bumrah, says Uthappa

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Jasprit Bumrah's "demanding action" and "high pace" put immense pressure on his body, and managing his workload is necessary, Robin Uthappa said. "Fast bowling is probably the toughest skill in the sport, and Bumrah does it at high pace with a demanding action," Uthappa said on *JioStar's 'Cricket Live'*.

MILESTONE

Lyon, with 564 wickets, is second on the Australian bowling chart

GETTY IMAGES

Nathan Lyon, on Thursday, moved past Glenn McGrath for second place on Australia's all-time bowling list. He reached the milestone on day two of the third Ashes Test. Muttiah Muralitharan (800) tops the list, followed by Shane Warne (708), Jimmy Anderson (704), Anil Kumble (619), Stuart Broad (604), Lyon (564), and McGrath (563).

STUFF OF LEGENDS

It's pretty humbling, says Lyon after surpassing McGrath

REUTERS

I grew up idolising Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath, they were my childhood heroes. To be able to take over or equal Glenn, it's pretty humbling, and it's something that I'll look back at the end of my career. Tonight I'll sit and have a moment to myself because this is extremely special — Nathan Lyon after moving past McGarth.

Chance for the Men in Blue to end the T20I series on a high

Cricket likely to take centre stage after the weather disruption in Lucknow with the Narendra Modi Stadium pitch — and dew factor — making it conducive for scoring runs; SA will count a series draw in the T20 format as a successful conclusion

SA IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

The fifth and final T20I here on Friday presents India the chance to salvage a positive at the end of a testing South Africa visit to these shores.

The tour began with two calamitous Test defeats for India, followed by the home team taking a 2-1 win in the ODI leg. Excessive fog at Lucknow on Wednesday meant that the series stayed alive, with India holding a 2-1 lead. There is unlikely to be any environmental disruptors at play at the Narendra Modi Stadium and cricket will be back centre stage.

Focus on Suryakumar

For India, skipper Suryakumar Yadav, this outing gives the batter another chance to find his rhythm.

The team takes a break for a month before featuring in five T20Is against New Zealand, making every occasion vital for the likes of Suryakumar to get runs under the belt ahead of the ICC men's T20 World Cup.

Shubman Gill, another player desperate to break out of a dip, is down with a foot injury. He may not partake in the proceedings on Friday, which leaves the door open for Kerala swashbuckler Sanju Samson to take his place at the top of the order.

Key personnel: With Gill unlikely to take part due to a foot injury, Samson may get an opportunity to loosen his limbs, while De Kock and Miller will hope to swing it for South Africa. VIJAY SONEJI

Axar Patel has been ruled out due to an illness. His replacement, Shahbaz Ahmed, may have to warm the bench, given that Varun Chakaravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav remain the lead spinners.

Hometown hero Jasprit Bumrah, who had flown home for personal reasons, could be back in action. In the interim, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana acquitted themselves well, bowling with venom in the third T20I at Dharamshala.

In the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy group stage day matches held at this venue this month, batters held a slight edge. In this night encounter, taking dew into consideration, there should be more runs on offer.

The South Africans, meanwhile, have the goods to end this tour on a high. The visitor bats deep, with formidable power-hitting options available even in the lower order. South Africa, thoroughly outclassed at Dharamshala, will welcome more batting-friendly conditions here.

India cannot lose the series, but if Aiden Markram's men can draw level at 2-2, the South Africans will count this as a truly successful tour of India.

The teams (from):

India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Shubman Gill (Vice-capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Jitesh Sharma, Sanju Samson, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakaravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (Capt.), Ottneil Baartman, Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Quinton de Kock, Tony de Zorzi, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, George Linde, Kwena Maphaka, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Tristan Stubbs.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

England on life-support as Australia rips it apart

Giant leap: Green gives Brook the marching orders. GETTY IMAGES

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
ADELAIDE

A pumped-up Australia ripped through England's fragile batting on Thursday to leave the tourists staring down the barrel of a third Test defeat with their Ashes campaign on the brink, barring a miracle.

At stumps on a sweltering day two, the visitors had ground to 213 for eight, trailing by 158 after Australia added 45 to its overnight 326 for eight as temperatures soared to 40 Celsius. A gutsy Ben Stokes was a weary not out 45 after facing a marathon 151 balls in searing heat with Jofra Archer on 30 in a Test England must win and on a pitch ideal for batting.

Brave knock

The captain's mood was not helped by another suspect decision by the Snicko technology, but at least his brave knock – including a blow to the helmet off Mitchell Starc – helped his side avoid the follow-on.

Australia leads the five-match series 2-0 and will retain the urn if it wins or draw after back-to-back eight-wicket thumpings in Perth and Brisbane.

Opening pair Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley saw off the early overs from Starc and Pat Cummins.

But it was a mirage with England losing three wickets for five runs in a 15-ball blitz, the latest chapter in a familiar tale.

Cummins first tempted an edge from Crawley, on nine, to wicketkeeper Alex Carey.

Lyon grabbed two wickets in a sensational opening over with a hapless Ollie Pope (3) flicking to Josh Inglis at midwicket before he bowled Duckett for 29.

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: Travis Head c Crawley b Carse 10, Jake Weatherald c Smith b Archer 18, Marnus Labuschagne c Carse b Archer 19, Usman Khawaja c Tongue b Jacks 82, Cameron Green c Carse b Archer 0, Alex Carey c Smith b Jacks 106, Josh Inglis b Tongue 32, Pat Cummins c Pope b Carse 13, Mitchell Starc b Archer 54, Nathan Lyon lbw b Archer 9, Scott Boland (not out) 14; Extras (lb-7, nb-7): 14; Total (in 91.2 overs): 371.

Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-33, 3-94, 4-94, 5-185, 6-244, 7-271, 8-321, 9-348.

England bowling: Archer 20.2-5-53-5, Carse 16-0-89-2, Tongue 16-1-64-1, Stokes 19-3-53-0, Jacks 20-3-105-2.

England — 1st innings: Zak Crawley c Carey b Cummins 9, Ben Duckett b Lyon 29, Ollie Pope c Inglis b Lyon 3, Joe Root c Carey b Cummins 19, Harry Brook c Carey b Green 45, Ben Stokes (batting) 45, Jamie Smith c Carey b Cummins 22, Will Jacks c Carey b Boland 6, Brydon Carse b Boland 0, Jofra Archer (batting) 30; Extras (lb-1, nb-4): 5; Total (for eight wickets in 68 overs): 213.

Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-41, 3-42, 4-71, 5-127, 6-159, 7-168, 8-168.

Australia bowling: Starc 12-1-54-0, Cummins 14-3-54-3, Boland 12-6-31-2, Lyon 22-4-51-2, Green 8-3-22-1.

Dhumal hints at shifting RR's base to Pune; optimistic about Bengaluru

IPL

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Arun Dhumal has indicated that uncertainty surrounding the administration of the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) could force IPL and Rajasthan Royals (RR) to look beyond Jaipur for its home matches in the 2026 season, with Pune emerging as a strong alternative.

Dhumal made it clear that the BCCI had already warned the RCA last year that failure to conduct elections would jeopardise the state's ability to host IPL matches.

"We had already communicated to the RCA last year that in case you are not able to organise these elections, it would be difficult for us to conduct the tournament there," Dhumal said after Tuesday night's IPL Auction in Abu Dhabi.

Wait and watch: IPL's decision to host games in Jaipur will depend on the Rajasthan Cricket Association elections. IPL

"As of now, that has not happened, so until and unless they conduct those elections and a new elected body comes in and the facility is good enough to take care of IPL games, we will watch the situation and take the right action in due course."

The RCA has been in administrative limbo, with two rival factions claiming legitimacy. As a result, the association has been run by an ad-hoc committee appointed by the BCCI in consultation with the Rajasthan state government, further complicating venue clearances.

With Jaipur's status as a venue uncertain, Rajasthan Royals have already inspected the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium on the outskirts of Pune. Having previously hosted IPL matches, including Playoffs, earlier, Pune could end up being Rajasthan Royals' base for IPL 2026.

On Bengaluru's situation, Dhumal struck a more optimistic note. The city has not hosted a major cricket match since a fatal stampede outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium last June, which led to heightened scrutiny of crowd management and infrastructure.

"I had a word with the officials from KSCA. They are in touch with the state government. They had a fruitful meeting and we are very positive that we will get Bengaluru as the venue," Dhumal said.

While no formal decision has been announced, the signals from the IPL chairman suggest that unless the RCA resolves its administrative issues swiftly, Rajasthan Royals may once again be forced to operate away from their traditional home base.

Firouzja makes it five out of five as the Continental Kings lord over Masters

GCL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Alireza Firouzja just turns up at the Global Chess League and wins most of the time. Last year, he drew his first game and then won the following six, as he went on to play a major role in Triveni Continental Kings' title defence in London.

Things are hardly any different in the third season of the GCL. He has made it five out of five so far: he beat Maxime Vachier-Lagrave to lead Continental Kings to a 9-5 win against upGrad Mumba Masters in the clash between the table-toppers at the Royal Opera House here on Thursday.

It was indeed Firouzja's win that decided the closely-contested affair. All the other four boards had been drawn. He held his nerve in time pressure to take advantage of his rival's inaccurate moves.

Unstoppable: Firouzja stepped up for the Kings with a win over Vachier-Lagrave. GCL

So Firouzja has beaten every player on the Icon board, his previous victims being the World No. 3 Fabiano Caruana, the reigning World champion D. Gukesh, the World No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura and the five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand.

The day also saw the unbelievably bad run of PBG Alaskan Knights, the runner-up last year, coming to an end.

The Knights defeated Alpine SG Pipers 12-8, with Gukesh and fellow-Indian Arjun Erigaisi delivering on the top two boards, as they beat Caruana and Anish Giri, respectively. The match produced decisive results on all six boards, in fact.

In the day's other match, Ganges Grandmasters beat Fyers American Gambits 8-7. Javokhir Sindarov, the recent winner at the World Cup in Goa, was the hero: he beat Richard Rapport.

At the halfway mark of the league phase, Continental Kings and Mumba are ahead.

The results (fifth round):

upGrad Mumba Masters lost to Triveni Continental Kings 5-9 (Maxime Vachier-Lagrave lost to Alireza Firouzja; Wesley So drew with Wei Yi; Shakhriyar Mamedyarov drew with Vidit Gujrathi; Koneru Humpy drew with Zhu Jiner; D. Harika drew with Alexandra Kosteniuk; Bardiya Daneshvar drew with MarcAndria Maurizzi).

PBG Alaskan Knights bt Alpine SG Pipers 12-8 (D. Gukesh bt Fabiano Caruana; Arjun Erigaisi bt Anish Giri; Leinier Dominguez bt R. Praggnanandhaa; Kateryna Lagno bt Hou Yifan; Sarasadat Khademalsharieh lost to Nina Batsiashvili; Daniel Dardha lost to Leon Mendonca).

Fyers American Gambits lost to Ganges Grandmasters 7-8 (Hikaru Nakamura drew with Viswanathan Anand; Vladislav Artemiev drew with Vincent Keymer; Richard Rapport lost to Javokhir Sindarov; Bibisara Assaubayeva bt Polina Shuvalova; Teodora Injac drew with Stavroula Tsolakidou; Volodor Murzin drew with Raunak Sadhwani).

(The writer is in Mumbai at the invitation of Tech Mahindra).

INBRIEF

Sri Lanka women's squad for T20I series against India

The Sri Lankan women's cricket team will compete in a five-match T20I series against India from December 21. The first two matches will be played in Visakhapatnam on December 21 and 23 while the remaining games will be in Thiruvananthapuram on Dec. 26, 28 and 30.

The squad: Chamari Athapaththu (Capt.), Harshitha Samarawickrama (Vice-capt.), Hasini Perera, Vishmi Gunaratne, Nilakshika de Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Imesha Dulani, Kaushani Nuthyangana (wk), Malsha Shehani, Inoka Ranaweera, Shashini Gimhani, Nimesha Madushani, Kavya Kawindi, Malki Madara, and Rashmika Sewwandi.

Ketan beats strong field, wins women's 10m air pistol gold

Haryana's Ketan Malik overcame a strong field, comprising Paris Olympic double medallist Manu Bhaker, to be crowned the women's 10m air pistol National shooting champion in New Delhi on Thursday. Ketan struck gold with 240.0, ahead of Meenu Pathak of Delhi, who took silver with 238.4, and Surbhi Rao, who claimed bronze with 219.5. In the junior women's category, Vanshika Chaudhary from U.P. emerged on top, edging out Anjali Shekhawat by 0.2 point for the gold, while Palak Gulia secured bronze.

FIFA World Cup winner to be richer by $50 million

The winner of the 2026 World Cup will receive $50 million from a $655 million prize pool, FIFA said on Wednesday in announcing record financial rewards. The champion's figure is up from $42 million won by Argentina in 2022 and $38 million gained by France in 2018 but less than half of what Chelsea earned for winning the much less-hyped Club World Cup this year. The total prize fund for the World Cup, staged in the United States, Canada and Mexico from June 11 to July 19, is up 48.9% from the $440 million for the 2022 tournament in Qatar. The Club World Cup, controversially expanded from seven teams to 32, had a total prize fund of $1 billion.

Karnataka takes control against Maharashtra

Hosts Karnataka took control of the proceedings against Maharashtra on the third day of the Cooch Behar (under-19) Trophy Elite match by gaining the first innings lead and then restricting the opposition to 176 for six in 59 overs in its second innings at the S.D.N.R.W. grounds in Mysuru on Thursday.

The scores: Maharashtra 304 in 94.2 overs & 176/6 in 59 overs (Arqam Syed 36 n.o., Sushrut Sawant 30, Samit Surana 30, Eesa Pathige 3/18) vs. Karnataka 320 in 104 overs (Manikanth Shivanand 71, Dhruv Krishnan 59, Varun Patel 50, Anvay Dravid 38, Suashik Jagtap 4/93).

Samrat's show at Worlds rated among the top-five of the year

Indian pistol shooter Samrat Rana's showing at the Cairo World Championships last month has been rated among the top five performances of the year by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). The 20-year-old made history by winning the men's 10m air pistol gold at the Worlds, becoming the first Indian to clinch a senior individual world title in the event. "The only man to defeat Hu Kai (China) this season, Samrat Rana was composed under pressure to pull off an upset no one expected," said ISSF.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's U-19 Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 10.30 a.m.
India vs South Africa: 5th T20I, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)
New Zealand vs West Indies: 3rd Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Saturday)
The Ashes: 3rd Test, day 4, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 5 a.m. (Saturday)

Mission Accomplished: Jharkhand capped off its remarkable run with a convincing victory in the summit clash. SHAYAN ACHARYA

Kishan leads Jharkhand to a memorable maiden triumph

The skipper's 49-ball 101 and his 177-run partnership with Kushagra helps the team pile up a massive total of 262 which proves too much for Haryana to overhaul

SMAT

Shayan Acharya
PUNE

Ishan Kishan, who offered glimpses of his brilliance throughout the tournament, saved his best for last.

Leading from the front, he toyed with the Haryana bowlers to score a 49-ball 101 and eventually guided Jharkhand to its maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title with a 69-run victory.

As fans turned up in large numbers at the MCA Stadium on Thursday, Kishan entertained them with his aggressive batting, hitting Haryana bowlers all around the park.

Despite losing opener Virat Singh early, Kishan made optimum use of a flat deck and unsettled the Haryana bowlers from the start.

Along the way, he forged a 177-run partnership with the young Kumar Kushagra (81, 38b, 8x4, 5x6) as Jharkhand put up 262 for three in its 20 overs.

With an objective to score as many runs as possible in the PowerPlay, both Kishan and Kushagra dealt in fours and sixes as Jharkhand racked up 69 runs in six overs.

Mauling Kamboj

Serving a timely reminder to the national selectors, who are likely to pick India's T20 World Cup squad on Saturday, Kishan accelerated with a couple of sixes off Parth Vats, before going after Anshul Kamboj. He hit the pacer for a couple of boundaries and a one-handed six over cover in the 14th over to become only the second batter, after Anmolpreet Singh, to score a century in the final of the SMAT.

Though Sumit Kumar knocked him over with a yorker in the next over, and Kushagra, too, fell shortly, Jharkhand was already near the 200-run mark.

As Haryana dropped quite a few catches, Anukul Roy and Robin Minz's unbroken 75-run stand for the third wicket ensured that Jharkhand scored the highest-ever total in the final of the tournament.

Pursuing a mammoth total, Haryana was never in the game. Ankit Kumar, who had a dream run in the tournament, fell to seamer Vikash Singh for a duck on the third ball of the innings, while Ashish Siwach was dismissed for a solitary run.

Haryana couldn't recover and lost wickets in clusters. Nishant Sindhu and Yashvardhan Dalal added 67 runs for the fourth wicket, before left-arm spinner Anukul removed both. With that, Haryana's hopes were dashed.

The scores: Jharkhand 262/3 in 20 overs (Ishan Kishan 101, Kumar Kushagra 81) bt Haryana 193 in 18.3 overs (Yashvardhan Dalal 53, Samant Jakhar 38, Sushant Mishra 3/21).
PoM: Kishan; **PoS:** Anukul Roy.

Safonov's heroics under the bar hands PSG the title

On a high: PSG players celebrate a sixth title in a calender year after beating Flamengo in the Intercontinental Cup. AFP

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP

Rajdeep Saha
DOHA

Russian goalkeeper Matvei Safonov saved four out of five kicks in the penalty shootout to help Paris Saint-Germain pip Flamengo 2-1 to lift the FIFA Intercontinental Cup 2025 title on Wednesday.

PSG became the first French club to win a world title as Luis Enrique's side finished the 2025 calendar year with six trophies – Trophee des Champions, the French league, the French Cup, the Champions League, the UEFA Super Cup and the Intercontinental Cup – and one runner-up finish, which came at the FIFA Club World Cup.

With the contest tied at 1-1 courtesy goals from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Jorginho, the summit clash went into extra-time. After the two teams could not be separated despite the additional half an hour, the winner was decided on penalties.

The first two kicks, taken by Flamengo's Nicolas de la Cruz and PSG's Vitinha, were turned in before Safonov made his first save in the shootout, denying Saul. The French side then had a chance to go up but Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele rattled the crossbar, providing a moment of relief for the Flamengo faithful amongst the 42,150-strong crowd.

Safonov then saved Pedro's shot to make it two out of two, although initially the 'keeper seemed to be off his line. However, the referee sent Pedro back despite the protests. Nuno Mendes converted from the spot to give PSG lead.

Although Leo Pereira's shot was also saved by Safonov, Flamengo saw a glimmer of hope when its custodian Agustin Rossi's outstretched arm kept out Bradley Barcola's shot. Safonov took his side over the line after he saved Luiz Araujo's effort to send the PSG players and fans into pandemonium.

(The writer is in Doha on an invitation from the Qatar Local Organising Committee for 2025 FIFA events).

New franchise comes on board for SLI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

UP Prometheans was on Thursday announced as the latest addition to the franchise-based Shooting League of India (SLI), the inaugural edition of which will be held from February 16 to 26, 2026.

"Uttar Pradesh has immense sporting potential, and the entry of a franchise driven by a strong educational and developmental philosophy adds great value to the league," said National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Kalikesh Singh Deo.

SLI will feature top Indian and international shooters competing in a mixed-team format across pistol, rifle and shotgun disciplines. The competition will have team events in multiple categories – pistol (10m, 25m), rifle (10m, 50m 3P), and shotgun (trap and skeet). The teams will be divided into two pools for the league stage, followed by knockout rounds.

NADA optimistic despite India reporting the highest number of dope positive cases

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

After India – which will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and is keen to stage the 2036 Olympics – earned the dubious distinction of reporting the highest number of dope positive cases for the third consecutive year, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) gave a positive picture saying the increase in the number of positive cases was the result of a hike in number of samples.

As per the 2024 testing figures recently released by World Anti-Doping Agency, NADA tested 7,113 urine and blood samples and reported 260 Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs), at 3.6%. The AAFs and total number of samples were 213 and 5,606 (3.8%) in 2023 and 125 and 3,865 (3.2%) in 2023.

NADA said it increased the number of tests to tackle the menace of doping and "the figures are a direct outcome of India's intensified anti-doping report". Despite the increase in testing, "the percentage of positive findings has shown a steady decline". It said this year, 110 AAFs had been reported out of 7,068 samples, at 1.5%, up to December 16.

Since Indian athletes also got tested by other agencies, the exact number of Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) from the country would be known after getting all the stats.

Following India, France (91), Italy (85), Russia and USA (76 each) and Germany (54) stand in the list of AAFs in 2024. The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) tested 7,651 samples, including some from other countries, and reported 268 positive results at 3.65%, which is the highest among all WADA accredited labs.

The NADA has underlined its efforts on several other aspects to curb doping in the country, which has been under pressure from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) over the issue.

Masterful Conway and Latham run West Indies ragged with huge stand

WI IN NZ

Agence France-Presse
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Devon Conway and Tom Latham plundered a poor West Indies attack Thursday for a mammoth opening partnership on day one of the third Test in Mount Maunganui as New Zealand piled up 334 for one.

Conway ended the day 178 not out and captain Latham was out just before the close for 137.

The pair put on 323, the second highest opening partnership for New Zealand, only bettered by Glenn Turner and Terry Jarvis's 387 stand against the West Indies in Georgetown in 1972.

Chanceless effort

It was only the eighth time New Zealand had registered a stand in excess of 300 in Tests.

Conway batted all day in facing 279 balls for his second century of the calendar year, but his first at home since January 2022 against Bangladesh in Christchurch. He scored 153 against Zimbabwe in August.

The 34-year-old Conway brought up his sixth Test century from 147 balls, and stroked 25 fours during his 279-ball stay.

Latham's 15th Test century contained 15 fours and a six as he faced 264 balls.

Conway and captain Latham were flawless. For the first two sessions the West Indies toiled without so much as a single lbw shout.

Early in the third session they finally created a chance, but Latham was dropped by wicketkeeper Tevin Imlach off the bowling of Anderson Phillip when on 104 and New Zealand on 253.

The marathon partnership justified Latham's decision to bat first on a green-looking wicket that is tipped to suit spin later in the match.

The West Indies seamers found good movement off the grassy surface in the opening overs, bowling tight lines which had both Conway and Latham defending cautiously, but they became more aggressive once the new ball was seen off.

Kemar Roach was the best of the bowlers, taking the lone wicket for figures of 1-63 from 17 overs.

He walked off with a potential muscle injury after the second to last over of the day, and is in doubt for the rest of the Test.

West Indies assistant coach Rayon Griffith said the New Zealand batters put on a clinic, but insisted the match wasn't over.

"The game is still in progress," Griffith said. "We've been through this before. We will come better tomorrow."

The scores: New Zealand 334/1 in 90 overs (Latham 137, Conway 178 batting) vs West Indies.
Toss: New Zealand.

Smashing time: The 323-run partnership between Latham and Conway was the second highest opening stand for New Zealand. AFP

WFI makes attendance at national camps mandatory

WRESTLING

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has unveiled a new selection policy that makes attendance at national camps mandatory to be eligible for national selection. The new policy also bars wrestlers from training independently and mandates Olympic Games quota-winners to appear in a final one-bout selection trial.

The policy was discussed and cleared at WFI's recent General Council meeting during the Nationals in Ahmedabad. It was also presented to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for feedback and a review.

"Participation in the national coaching camp is mandatory for all wrestlers, including elite and iconic athletes. To be eligible for the camp, a wrestler must have won a medal in the National Championship of the concerned year," the policy under the sub-head National Coaching Camps, stated.

"Once selected, wrestlers are required to train exclusively at the designated national camp. No athlete is permitted to train independently at any other venue."

It means Vinesh Phogat, who recently announced her comeback from retirement, will have to prove herself at the domestic level before being in the reckoning for a spot in the national team. The policy made it clear that a failure to attend the camp will make the wrestler "ineligible to participate in the selection trials".

The policy has also made a provision to keep a list of reserve wrestlers, who will be asked to do the national duty in case of injury to selected athlete.

The WFI policy makes it clear that "past performances will not be considered for selection trials".

Satwik-Chirag duo overcomes Alfian-Fikri

The third-seeded Indians register a win in three games against the unseeded Indonesian pair, move closer to the knockout stage

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
HANGZHOU

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty dished out a solid performance to outwit the Indonesian pair of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri in their second Group B match and inch closer to the knockout stage of the BWF World Tour Finals here on Thursday.

The former World No. 1 pair shored up its defence and dominated the proceedings to register a 21-11, 16-21, 21-11 win over World No. 8 Alfian and Fikri in a men's doubles match that lasted 60 minutes.

With two wins from two matches, Satwik and Chirag now lead the group and have a considerable advantage in points difference.

The third-seeded Indian pair will face second seeds Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in the last group match on Friday.

Facing a pair known for its exceptional front-court skills, the onus was on Chirag, but he was ably supported by Satwik, who was flawless. The Indians changed their aggressive approach to a more blended mix of shots and pace to counter the Indonesians.

Two deep pushes from Chirag and a series of shots buried at the net from the nervy Indonesians saw the Indians make a 6-0 start in the opening game before taking an 11-2 advantage.

Though the Indonesians made it 9-13, Chirag and Satwik took the lead to 18-10 before winning 21-11.

After losing the second game to 16-21, the Indians established a 11-4 lead in the decider before some mistimed shots from the Indonesians gave nine match points to the former who sealed the contest when their opponents sprayed one into the net.

Winning strategy: Chirag and Satwik blended a mix of shots and pace to counter the Indonesians. FILE PHOTO

Dhiraj and Shravari take the honours

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

Bommadevara Dhiraj (SSCB) and Shravari Somnath Shende (Maharashtra) won the recurve men's and women's individual Olympic round gold in the senior National archery championships on Thursday.

Other results (winners only):
70m (overall): Men: Atanu Das (PSPB); **Women:** Gatha Anandrao Khadake (Mah).
Team: Men & women: Maharashtra; **Mixed:** RSPB.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT
Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission
Metros - CMRL Building, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035.

Invitation for Bids No: Mangrove - IN-TNSHORE-520951-CW-RFB

Title: Mangrove Conservation Centre at Pichavaram, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu

The Chief Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission, Chennai invites bids from eligible bidders for the work named above. Bids are invited under National Open Competitive Procurement (NCP). The detailed Notice Inviting Bids and bid documents for the above work will be available on the website **www.tntenders.gov.in** from **19.12.2025** at **15.00** hours. All relevant information and instructions to bidders are provided in the bid document.

1. The Pre-bid Meeting will be held at **11:30** hours on **29.12.2025.** All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
2. Any addendum, corrigendum or clarification to the bidder's queries etc. will be published on the **www.tntenders.gov.in** website only.

Chief Mission Director,
Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission,
Chennai.

DIPR/ 6729 /TENDER/2025

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File No. HO/CIV/T&E/E-5335/01/2025/ 35363 Dt.11.12.2025
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST/24/2025-26
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. **Name of the Work : " Engagement of Programme Management Consultant (PgMC) for various projects of IDCO ".**
2. **Availability of tender online for Bidding :**
   i. **Start Date : 20.12.2025 at 05:30 PM.**
   ii. **End Date : 15.01.2026 at 05:00 PM.**
   iii. **Opening date : 15.01.2026 at 05:30 PM**

RFP details can be seen from the e-procurement portal. **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Civil), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-2750: OIPR-14003/11/0270/2526

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION BHIM (RAJSAMAND)
File No. 2604 **Date : 11/12/2025**

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for **Nit No 28/2025-26**, (Road & Building works) 12 Nos. are invited from interested bidders upto **Date 07.01.2026, 06.00 P.M.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state. and - departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 2005.45 Lacs**.

NIB Code :- PWD2526A4695

S. No.	UBN No.	S. No.	UBN No.	S. No.	UBN No.
1	PWD2526WSOB18709	5	PWD2526WSOB18713	9	PWD2526WSOB18717
2	PWD2526WSOB18710	6	PWD2526WSOB18714	10	PWD2526WSOB18718
3	PWD2526WSOB18711	7	PWD2526WSOB18715	11	PWD2526WSOB18719
4	PWD2526WSOB18712	8	PWD2526WSOB18716	12	PWD2526WSOB18720

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD DIVISION BHIM

DIPR/C/18556/2025

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage system from registered agencies for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount
	Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.	
	IFT No. BWSSB/CE(E)/ACE(E)-1/DCE(M)-1/TA(E)/5961/2025-26	**Date: 18.12.2025**
1	Work of Providing, Laying & Linking 600mm dia Feeder Main MS water pipeline & Trenchless works to improve water supply facilities Hoodi Ward & Surrounding Areas and Cross Roads coming under AEE(E)-1-1 Sub Division	₹ 305.68 Lakhs / ₹ 4,59,000/-
2	Work of Providing & Laying 600mm dia Feeder Main MS water pipeline & allied works to improve water supply facilities to Ayyappa Nagar, Kodigehalli, Sadaramangala & KR Puram Areas coming under AEE(E)-1-1 Sub Division	₹ 318.50 Lakhs / ₹ 4,78,000/-

Last date for receipt of tenders: **03.01.2026** upto **16:00 Hrs**. The bid will be opened on: **05.01.2026** after **16:00 Hrs**.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (East)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/MIA/4523/2025-26

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252623 003758	Bleached Softwood Kraft Pulp (BSKP) FSC Mix	02.01.2026
252623 003759	BCTMP Softwood 70 - High Yield Pulp	03.01.2026
252623 003760	BCTMP Hardwood 70 - High Yield Pulp	05.01.2026
252623 003761	BCTMP Hardwood 80 - High Yield Pulp (Low Tensile)	06.01.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/6731/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
Letter No.40620, Dated : 08.12.2025 Email i.d. : crew_bbsr@yahoo.com

"e" Procurement Notice for bridge works in Odisha (Online-02(Bridge)/2024-25 dt. .12.2025)

1. Name of the work : **"Construction of bridge work"**
2. Total No. of Works : **06** (Six) nos
3. Estimated cost : **Rs.1150.00 to 2755.00 lakh**
4. Class of Contractor : **"A" Class, "Special" & "Super" Class as applicable.**
5. Period of Completion : **As mentioned in Column 7 of TCN**
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of bridge works	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To
Chief Engineer, Buildings & Bridges, Rural Works,Odisha, Bhubaneswar	Online-02 (Bridge)/ 2025-26	06 (Six) nos.	23.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M	10.01.2026 Upto 5.00 P.M

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which will be available in website : **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.**

Chief Engineer (Buildings & Bridges), Rural Works,Odisha, Bhubaneswar

O-1776: OIPR-25123/11/0004/2526

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER **(Through KPP Portal Only)**

BWSSB invite tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the below mentioned works.

Office of The Chief Engineer (UWP), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender / EMD
	No: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/ACE(WWM-VV-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/43/2025-26	**Date:18.12.2025**
1	Providing and Laying 400mm dia DWC SN-8 class pipe line from 3rd cross Malleshwaram to Sheshadripuram main road Kumara park west of drain no. V-110, coming under AEE(WWM-V.V)-1-1 sub division, Bangalore.	Rs. 133.26 Lakhs / Rs. 2.00 Lakhs
	No: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/ACE(WWM-VV-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/41/2025-26	**Date:18.12.2025**
2	Providing & Laying of 450mm dia RCC NP-3 class pipe line from 4th main Karnataka Bank to along road linking to existing sub line at Malleshwaram coming under AEE(WW M-VV)-1-1 sub division	Rs. 177.88 Lakhs / Rs. 2.67 Lakhs

For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **02.01.2026 upto 17.00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on: **03.01.2026 after 17.30 hrs**.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (UWP)

Office of The Engineer in Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

	No: BWSSB/EIC/5974/2025-26	**Date:18.12.2025**
3	Work of Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 15 MLD STP at Yelemallappachetty, 5 MLD ISPS at Sadaramangala and Maintenace of Pumping line of 450mm dia DI pipeline from Sadaramangala ISPS for 3.5kms for the period of 5 years. Call-2.	Rs. 1246.04 Lakhs / Rs. 15.00 Lakhs

For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **29.12.2025 upto 16.00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on: **30.12.2025 after 17.00 hrs**.

Sd/- Engineer in Chief

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the below signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/4533/Zen/2025-26

Ph. No. 06670-235504; E_Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA.
Bid Identification No.:- BPT/Online-15/2025-26 Date: 29.11.2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Road and Bridge works under MMSY-Improvement to Existing RD Roads, MMSY-TRIP, MMSY-CUVDA and MMSY CMRL Schemes in the district Kalahandi and Nuapada.**
2. No of Works : **As per NIT**
3. Location details : **Kalahandi and Nuapada District**
4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper : **Rs.10,000/-** per set
7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding From	To	Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
24.12.2025 11.00 A.M.	08.01.2026 5.00 P.M.	07.01.2026	09.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site **"www.tendersorissa.gov.in"**

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna.

O-1716: OIPR-25102/11/0038/2526

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 26096834, e-mail : engg@kmf.coop

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/PIBOs_EPR_PWM/2025-26 Date: 17-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bengaluru invites tenders from the eligible CPCB Authorized Post Consumer Plastic Waste Recyclers / Waste Collection Agencies / any other eligible companies who are in the similar business through KPPP for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested Waste Collection Agencies & any other eligible companies who have executed similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail: admin.eproc@karnataka.gov.in, support@eprochelpdesk.com and helpline no. +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, 080-22230960, 080-22234115.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Tender Quantity (MTPA)	EMD (Rs)
1	EPR Fulfillment / Plastic Waste Management by way of Collection, Segregation & Recycling of Post-Consumer Plastic Waste generated by KMF & its Member Milk Unions & Units Across PAN India. The entire activities shall be managed in confirmation to Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 along with Annual Filing for the year 2025-26 (LDPE/LLDPE/PE/MLP/Tetra Pak paperboard Cartons / waste Film of Milk, Curd, Ghee, Butter Milk and Lassi etc – Pouch Milk, UHT Milk & Fresh Products Packaging Waste- All category Plastic Waste)	Approx. 16786	6,00,000/-

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated **19-12-2025 to 09-01-2026 up to 4-00 pm.**
2. Pre Bid Meeting on date: **02-01-2026 at 12.00 pm.**
3. Last date for Tender submission on date: **09-01-2026 up to 4.00 pm**
4. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date**: 12-01-2026 at 11.30 am**.

Any Modifications / changes in the Bid Document / Tender Specification / Tender Schedule will be uploaded in KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering]-1

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
Invitation of Bids–Two Cover–Item War Tender System (E-Submission – Short Term)

IFB No.	23 to 28 /F.O&M of CWSS/SDO/CE-TNJ/2025/Dt.17.12.2025
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Thanjavur - 613 403
Sale of Bid	**26.12.2025 to 09.01.2026** upto **15.00** hours.
EMD Payable	Online Mode or eBG through E-Tendering website **"https://tntenders.gov.in"**
Pre Bid meeting	**02.01.2026** at **11.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee.
Bid Submission	**09.01.2026 before 15.00** hours duly Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **"https://tntenders.gov.in"**
Bid opening	**12.01.2026** at **15.30** hours through E-Tender Portal **"https://tntenders.gov.in"**

IFB No.	Name of work	Appx. value (including 18% GST)	Bid Security
	Operation and Maintenance of the following CWSS including repair, rectification works and supply of Chemicals for the period from 2026-27 to 2028-29		
23	8 Nos of CWSS to Ariyalur District **(Pkg-27)**	Rs.31.91 Crore	Rs. 23.93 lakh
24	31 Nos of CWSS to Pudukkottai District **(Pkg-28)**	Rs.20.14 Crore	Rs. 15.11 lakh
25	CWSS to 1766 in Pudukkottai District (1 No) **(Pkg-33)**	Rs.48.33 Crore	Rs. 36.25 lakh
26	CWSS to 1751 in Pudukkottai District (1 No) **(Pkg-32)**	Rs.36.39 Crore	Rs. 27.29 lakh
27	4 Nos of CWSS to Trichy District (P-I) **(Pkg-37)**	Rs.28.06 Crore	Rs. 21.05 lakh
28	4 Nos of CWSS to Trichy District (P-II) **(Pkg-38)**	Rs.23.27 Crore	Rs. 17.45 lakh

DIPR/ 6715 /TENDER/2025

Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Thanjavur.

SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଆମ୍ବପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, , ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement E-Mail/ E-despatch
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/48-2025-26/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 48 - 2025-26/ BPR	Road Works under MMSY-TRIP	18 Nos	From Rs.302.52 Lakhs to Rs.806.72 Lakhs	"A" Class & "Special" Class as applicable	Period of Completion as provided as per Col.No.5 of Annexure of NIT

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender / 48-2025-26/BPR	29.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	12.01.2026 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur

O-1783: OIPR-25071/11/0181/2526

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The WTL mantra: stay, play and learn together

The results are hardly the focus as the Indian players like Nagal and Dhakshineswar have shown more interest in gleaning from the best in the business in a relaxed atmosphere

TENNIS

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Having a ball: Dhakshineswar and Krygios thrilled the fans with an entertaining show. K. MURALI KUMAR

Despite being a deeply individualistic sport, tennis has a glorious history of top-draw team events. The Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup (earlier Fed Cup) have been at the pinnacle for decades, and tournaments such as United Cup and Laver Cup are aspiring to be on a similar pedestal in the years to come.

The ongoing World Tennis League (WTL) exhibition is another competition that seeks to tap into the concept of togetherness. Though it comes during the off-season and carries no ATP or WTA ranking points, the environment has seemingly appealed to the participants.

"People are relaxed and the atmosphere is different," said the India No. 1 and World No. 277 Sumit Nagal on Thursday. "A lot of people are involved on your bench and you don't get that feeling on the actual Tour. There it is pretty much just you on the court, and may be a coach behind you.

"So leagues are always fun. It gets you into a lighter mood and I couldn't have asked for something better than this," he added.

According to Dhakshineswar Suresh, the tall and lanky Indian ranked No. 426, the chance to play with the likes of Nick Kyrgios is huge, for the little pearls of wisdom he can gather from someone who has beaten the best and been to a Grand Slam final.

"Having someone like Nick in the team... he is going to make it fun," said Dhakshineswar, who featured in a doubles match with the Australian. "I am also learning a little bit from his game. He is a big server as well and giving me a few tips."

This may be true for the Indian women's singles players like Sahaja Yamalapalli and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty too, but for now, they have just been on the bench and are yet to play a set. One hopes Friday is different.

The results:

AOS Eagles bt Aussie Mavericks Kites 25-13 (Paula Badosa bt Marta Kostyuk 6-1; Gael Monfils & Badosa bt Dhakshineswar Suresh & Kostyuk 6-3; Monfils & Sumit Nagal bt Nick Kyrgios & Dhakshineswar 6-3; Nagal bt Dhakshineswar 7-6).

Game Changers Falcons bt VB Realty Hawks 20-16 (Magda Linette lost to Elina Svitolina 2-6; Rohan Bopanna & Linette bt Yuki Bhambri & Maaya Rajeshwaran 6-3; Bopanna & Medvedev bt Denis Shapovalov & Yuki 6-3; Medvedev bt Shapovalov 6-4).